

4.3.2 PREMIER, MINISTER FOR THE ARTS AND MINISTER FOR ETHNIC AFFAIRS

OVERVIEW

Agency	Forecast 1995-96	Estimate 1996-97	Variation
	\$m	\$m	%
Cabinet Office			
Current Payments	8.3	9.2	10.8
Capital Payments
Parliamentary Counsel's Office			
Current Payments	3.7	4.1	10.8
Capital Payments	0.1	0.1	...
Public Employment Office			
Current Payments	12.6	12.2	(-) 3.2
Capital Payments	0.1	0.1	...
Premier's Department			
Current Payments	55.9	55.2	(-) 1.3
Capital Payments	0.3	0.7	133.3
Independent Commission Against Corruption			
Current Payments	12.7	12.6	(-) 0.8
Capital Payments	0.2	0.2	...
Ombudsman's Office			
Current Payments	4.5	5.2	15.5
Capital Payments	0.3	0.1	(-) 66.7
State Electoral Office			
Current Payments	13.1	8.1	(-) 38.2
Capital Payments
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal			
Current Payments	2.9	3.8	31.0
Capital Payments
Ministry for the Arts			
Current Payments	33.8	34.6	2.4
Capital Payments	19.1	25.0	30.9
State Library			
Current Payments	41.4	42.0	1.4
Capital Payments	6.0	7.0	16.7
Australian Museum			
Current Payments	19.3	20.0	3.6
Capital Payments	1.0	1.7	70.0
Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences			
Current Payments	26.6	27.3	2.6
Capital Payments	2.8	1.0	(-) 64.3
Historic Houses Trust			
Current Payments	9.5	9.6	1.1
Capital Payments	0.8	0.6	(-) 25.0
Art Gallery of New South Wales			
Current Payments	19.4	18.3	(-) 5.7
Capital Payments	3.3	3.2	(-) 3.0
Archives Authority of New South Wales			

Agency	Forecast 1995-96	Estimate 1996-97	Variation
	\$m	\$m	%
Current Payments	4.4	4.6	4.5
Capital Payments	0.1	0.1	...
New South Wales Film and Television Office			
Current Payments	10.4	6.1	(-) 41.3
Capital Payments	0.1	0.1	...
Ethnic Affairs Commission			
Current Payments	9.6	10.4	8.3
Capital Payments	0.8	0.2	(-) 75.0
Total, Premier, Minister for the Arts and Minister for Ethnic Affairs	323.1	323.4	0.1

The variations in current payments in this portfolio have mainly resulted from -

- reduced funding to the State Electoral Office after settlement of all costs relating to the March 1995 general election;
- increased funding to the Ombudsman's Office for initiatives in relation to Witness Protection, Youth and Aboriginal issues; and
- an increase in the Ethnic Affairs current payments due to delays in the Community Assistance Grants Program in 1995-96.

The variations in capital payments are mainly due to -

- standardisation of information technology in the Premier's Department following the corporate services integration project;
- reduced funding provided in 1996-97 to the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences due to the completion of refurbishment of the Harwood Building;
- increased level of funding for capital projects in the Ministry for the Arts; and
- increased level of funding for the Australian Museum, mainly due to funding provided for the Aboriginal exhibition.

CABINET OFFICE

The Cabinet Office provides support to the Premier and Cabinet through the development, co-ordination and implementation of government policy. It co-ordinates New South Wales' involvement in the Council of Australian Governments process.

The Cabinet Office has estimated total payments of \$9.2 million in 1996-97. The 1996-97 capital allocation of \$10,000 is for an annual provision for upgrading and replacing minor works.

PARLIAMENTARY COUNSEL'S OFFICE

The Parliamentary Counsel's Office is responsible for developing, drafting and publishing Government legislation for presentation to Parliament or the Governor-in-Council. The Office advises on and drafts or settles environmental planning instruments and provides a legislative drafting service for non-government Members of Parliament. It compiles and maintains the NSW Legislation Database and manages the Legislation Reprinting Program. The Office also produces a range of legislation information publications and provides advice and information on legislation and related matters.

Current payments are estimated at \$4.1 million. The capital program consists of \$120,000 for the purchase of a new high speed photocopier.

PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT OFFICE

The Office, established in August 1995, provides advice to the Government on people management policies, practices and programs, and strategic planning on these and related activities in the public sector. Its activities are targeted at strengthening the independence and merit of the public sector.

During the year the Office of the Council on the Cost of Government, the Office of the Director of Equal Opportunity in Public Employment, the Government Actuary's Office and the Spokeswomen's program were transferred from Premier's Department to the Public Employment Office.

The Office is developing a strategic framework for people management in the New South Wales public sector, with an emphasis on ethics, accountability and improved employee performance. This framework will achieve the Government's objectives in reducing the Senior Executive Service and the management of displaced employees as a consequence of restructuring public administration.

To achieve whole of Government results, the Office will work with the Council on the Cost of Government and other central agencies.

Current payments in 1996-97 are estimated at \$12.2 million. A capital works allocation of \$100,000 provides for the purchase of minor plant and equipment.

PREMIER'S DEPARTMENT

Expenditure Trends and Recent Developments

The Department has continued its work in quality customer service by developing guidelines for measuring performance of agencies in improving customer service, promoting best practice and facilitating interagency networks.

The improved co-ordination of Government responses to issues and concerns of regional communities was continued by the regional co-ordinators in Lismore and Dubbo.

Strategic Directions

The Department provides certain services including -

- a core secretariat function which provides support for the Premier as Head of Government and for the portfolio responsibilities;
- agenda setting whereby the Department supports the Premier's role in defining, guiding and monitoring the achievement of the whole of government priorities and policy outcomes; and
- issues relating to the machinery of government.

1996-97 Budget

Current Payments

Funding has been provided to enable the Department to assist in the implementation of the corporatisation program approved by the Microeconomic and Government Trading Enterprises Reform Unit of Cabinet, to improve management and organisational performance throughout the public sector, and for the formation of the corporate services unit which will improve services and reduce costs in the Governor Macquarie Tower.

Current payments in 1996-97 are estimated at \$55.2 million. The capital allocation of \$668,000 mainly provides for the replacement of computers.

INDEPENDENT COMMISSION AGAINST CORRUPTION

The Independent Commission Against Corruption is responsible for promoting integrity in public administration throughout New South Wales by exposing and minimising corruption.

In the past year the Commission has been able to move toward a broader approach involving greater emphasis on collaboration, advice and education while still retaining a strong investigative capacity. This has resulted in the development of various corruption prevention and education publications and resource kits.

These include the Practical Guide to Corruption Prevention, Local Government Conflicts of Interest and Higher School Curriculum Materials.

During the forthcoming year the Commission will be continuing its emphasis on co-operative corruption prevention and education projects. In particular, work will be undertaken with various agencies to assist in the achievement of a corruption free Olympics. Interactive multi media resources will be developed for use in primary and secondary schools as well as development of materials for TAFE institutions and Universities.

OMBUDSMAN'S OFFICE

The Ombudsman's Office exists to protect the rights and interests of users of government and local government services and to ensure public officers act honestly, fairly and reasonably. It also monitors the use of telecommunication interception activities by eligible authorities.

As a consequence of the recommendations of the Interim Report of the Royal Commission into the Police Service, the Office has been allocated \$400,000 per annum to upgrade investigations of complaints about police, including provision to establish an Aboriginal Complaints Unit to specifically deal with complaints made by Aborigines.

The Witness Protection Act, 1995 created a new responsibility for the Ombudsman to determine appeals and complaints made against decisions of the Commissioner of Police in relation to inclusion in or removal from the witness protection program. An amount of \$200,000 per annum has been provided for this purpose.

The sum of \$60,000 will be provided in 1996-97 and 1997-98 to improve access to and awareness of the office among young people.

The new initiatives will result in an increase in staff from 72 to 81 positions.

Capital funding includes the provision of \$77,000 to complete the implementation of the Case Management System. The system will support more effective management of cases and provide information that assists in optimising resource allocation.

STATE ELECTORAL OFFICE

The State Electoral Office is responsible for the management and administration of Parliamentary elections, by-elections and referenda, the Political Education Fund and, through the Election Funding Authority, the public funding of election campaigns. In addition it conducts, on a commercial basis, such elections as local government, trade unions, statutory boards, registered clubs and enterprise agreements.

The major expense item in 1996-97 will be payments to the Commonwealth under the Joint Roll Agreement which has been signed by all States. An amount of \$2.7 million has been provided for this purpose. Payments to parties and candidates from the Political Education Fund will amount to \$1.4 million.

INDEPENDENT PRICING AND REGULATORY TRIBUNAL

The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal of New South Wales (formerly the Government Pricing Tribunal) was established in 1992 for the purpose of determining maximum prices of government monopoly services supplied by New South Wales government trading enterprises.

During 1995-96 the Tribunal's activities increased to cover waste services, rural bulk water and pricing policies of local water authorities. It also took over research and advisory support services for the Gas Council. Current payments are estimated at \$3.8 million.

MINISTRY FOR THE ARTS

Expenditure Trends and Recent Developments

The Ministry for the Arts provides policy advice to the Government regarding the allocation of cultural grants to non-profit, non-government arts organisations. The Ministry is also responsible for the implementation, review and development of arts and cultural policy in relation to the cultural institutions, current and capital budget allocations to the cultural institutions and portfolio-wide priorities, projects and issues.

In 1995-96 the Government launched the first New South Wales City of the Arts in the Blue Mountains, with a two year program and special assistance totalling \$550,000 to improve cultural amenities in the region.

Strategic Directions

The Ministry's mission is to preserve and enhance the artistic life and cultural heritage of the State through the management of special programs and initiatives and the provision of advice to the Government of the highest professional quality on the policy and resources of the cultural institutions.

1996-97 Budget

Current Payments

An amount of \$14.8 million has been allocated for the Cultural Grants Program, an increase of \$1.3 million over the 1995-96 allocation. This comprises enhancement funding of \$1.1 million for specific new initiatives.

The additional \$1.1 million will support the following -

- a Regional Museum Development Fund, with an annual allocation of \$500,000, will be created to improve museum buildings and facilities in regional New South Wales;
- \$200,000 has been provided for the employment of professional staff in regional museums;
- support for performing artists will continue with on-going funding of \$110,000 to meet the cost of award increases;
- a second instalment of \$70,000 for a Writers to the People program in rural New South Wales;
- as part of the Government's plan to revive the study of history in New South Wales, \$70,000 has been provided for the annual NSW History Awards to recognise and reward scholarly achievement in published history;
- \$68,000 will be provided to the State Library towards the conservation of its collection of Joern Utzon's papers, plans and photographs relating to the construction of the Sydney Opera House;
- \$49,000 will be used to develop a detailed brief on the operation of the Historic Houses Trust's Rouse Hill House property within the major new urban park at Rouse Hill; and

- the Archives Authority will receive \$33,000 towards the conservation of the Aboriginal Welfare Board's correspondence, the most significant body of archival records documenting Government policy and practice concerning Aboriginal people in New South Wales.

Capital Payments

In 1996-97 funds have been allocated to continue the Indigenous Cultural Centre project. The Centre is to occupy two locations: Wharf 4/5 at Walsh Bay and the former Earth Exchange Building. This project will provide much needed performance, exhibition, administrative and meeting facilities for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community. The "Earth Exchange" project will be known as the Tulagulla Indigenous Cultural Centre, while the Wharf 4/5 project will be called the Bangarra Dance Theatre Centre. Funding arrangements for both projects are currently being finalised. It is anticipated that the Commonwealth will contribute \$2 million towards this project.

An amount of \$842,000 has been provided to replace the roofing and guttering of Wharf 4/5, Walsh Bay. Since 1990 almost \$8 million has been provided for refurbishment and repairs at this location.

An amount of \$1.644 million has been allocated in 1996-97 to continue the construction of an anteroom and soloists' suite for the Concert Hall at the Sydney Opera House. The project (estimated total cost \$2.389 million) will improve performers' access to the Concert Hall, provide adequate security and storage space for instruments, music scores and parts and increase incentives to hire the Concert Hall. The project is due for completion in June, 1998.

An amount of \$4 million will be provided over the next two years to construct a new theatre seating approximately 300 people in the Opera House's Broadwalk Studio area.

STATE LIBRARY

The State Library of New South Wales is the major public reference library and information service for the people of New South Wales. The Library fulfils a

Statewide role by providing services to people who visit the Library or who seek information by mail, telephone, fax or e-mail. The Library maintains and ensures the security of the unique heritage Mitchell and Dixson collections of Australian and New South Wales resources.

The Library also supports the network of public libraries throughout New South Wales through subsidies and grants to Local Government and by providing loans, supply of documents, and reference services on request to users of public libraries.

Expenditure Trends and Recent Developments

The State Library continues to experience increases in the demand for its services from clients visiting the Library and those contacting the Library themselves or through other libraries.

Completion of the major refurbishment of the General Reference Library will improve customer service through the streamlining of service points and providing better access to the collections. Replacement of the State Library's computer system will further improve customer access to the collections.

Installation of a new telephone system will also improve customer service by extending the range of services and facilities available to customers who contact the Library by telephone.

Strategic Directions

The State Library is committed to continuous improvement in customer service and in the management and preservation of the cultural heritage of New South Wales. Policies to further mainstream and improve services for clients of non-English speaking backgrounds, clients with disabilities, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients are being developed.

A greater focus on meeting the information needs of students is also being evaluated. The establishment of INFOCUS, a specialist document delivery service to support the Higher School Certificate curriculum, has been a significant development in meeting the needs of school students. The Library is also examining methods of providing this service electronically.

Options for the application of digitisation technology and the development of a range of multimedia services and products are being investigated. The State Library's web site on the Internet is available and will continue to be updated, providing links to other appropriate sites, and enabling participation in the whole of government approach to information technology developments.

1996-97 Budget

Current Payments

The Budget provides for grants and subsidies to local public libraries totalling \$16.7 million. The grants and subsidies program is administered by the State Library.

Capital Payments

The State Library's capital program provides \$2.3 million for the replacement of the existing computer system. An amount of \$500,000 has been provided for the collection storage project, which will enable the purchase of compactus shelving for the Library's stack areas.

The capital program also provides \$3.5 million for the purchase of resources for the State Library's collection, including books, journals, pictures, maps, manuscripts, CD-ROMs and other print and electronic materials.

AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM

Expenditure Trends and Recent Developments

The Museum is Australia's leading natural history museum which seeks to increase understanding of, and influence public debate on, the natural environment, human societies and human interaction with the environment.

Strategic Directions

Programs focus on the history of the Australian continent, biodiversity and evolution of the Australian fauna; the cultural heritage of indigenous peoples of Australia and the near Pacific; and development of a public program to the year 2000 based on audience needs and interests and new technologies.

1996-97 Budget

Current Payments

The Museum has been allocated additional recurrent funding of \$162,000 to enable programs associated with the transfer of the Albert Chapman mineral collection to be undertaken.

A number of exhibitions are planned for 1996-97. These include -

- Indigenous Australia - the largest and most comprehensive exhibition of its type for semi-permanent display;
- Frogs - an innovative travelling exhibition developed by the Museum dealing with frogs and their importance in the environment;
- Sex - an exciting travelling exhibition to be developed by the Museum dealing with the reproductive strategies in the animal and plant kingdom;
- Chapman Mineral Collection - a world class mineral collection to be placed on long-term display at the Museum (previously displayed at the former Earth Exchange);
- Dinosaur Museum on the Road - a travelling exhibition based on the Museum's successful "More than Dinosaurs" semi-permanent exhibition which will tour New South Wales country areas during the next five years; and
- New Museum in a Box programs - focusing on contemporary and traditional aboriginal issues - an innovative outreach project enhancing the Museum's extension services to New South Wales schools.

Capital Payments

Capital funding of \$700,000 has been provided for development of a new Indigenous Australia semi-permanent exhibition. The exhibition will explore themes which are relevant to Aboriginal people, and provide information on the experience of Australia's indigenous peoples over their more than 60,000 year history and mark the relevance of that history to contemporary Australia.

MUSEUM OF APPLIED ARTS AND SCIENCES

Expenditure Trends and Recent Developments

The Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences is a public museum operated by the Government for the people of New South Wales. It consists of the Powerhouse Museum, the Sydney Mint Museum and the Sydney Observatory.

Past programs have provided for expenditures associated with the maintaining of the Museum's asset base, plant and equipment purchases and works associated with temperature controls for exhibits held in stores.

Strategic Directions

The Museum's mission is to be a dynamic, innovative and enjoyable museum that promotes awareness and understanding of the past, present and future of Australian society through research, scholarship and the acquisition, conservation and integrated presentation of material in the fields of science, technology, industry, design, decorative art and social history.

1996-97 Budget

Current Payments

In 1997, the Powerhouse Museum will open a major new gallery featuring the museum's extensive collection of Asian design and decorative arts. The first exhibition in this changing gallery will be on the theme of Chinese costume and will attract considerable public attention to the high quality and depth of the Powerhouse Museum's collection in this field.

In addition to the permanent galleries, the Museum each year mounts a number of temporary exhibitions as a means of showing to the public different aspects of the Museum's collection as well as those of other museums and collectors to which it has access. Major exhibitions planned for 1996-97 include -

- The World of Faberge, Treasures of the Kremlin, opening July 1996;
and
- Circus, to open in December 1996, to celebrate the sesquicentenary of the circus in Australia.

Capital Payments

The Museum is entering the second year of a program to establish an imaging system to digitise the Museum's collection for access by staff and the public. The system will enable staff to utilise these images for exhibition design, interactive and multimedia presentation and public programs, enabling the public to view images of the vast collection not on display. The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$2.5 million of which an amount of \$762,000 has been allocated in 1996-97.

HISTORIC HOUSES TRUST

Expenditure Trends and Recent Developments

The Historic Houses Trust of New South Wales is entrusted with the care of key heritage buildings of New South Wales. Its objectives are to conserve and manage these properties, surrounds and collections, and to provide a range of public and school programs to increase awareness of the Trust and its properties.

In March of this year the Trust became responsible for the management of Government House.

Strategic Directions

The Trust aims to maintain, develop and preserve its properties and collections on an on-going basis so as to benefit public awareness and accessibility.

1996-97 Budget

Current Payments

The Trust is developing a number of major exhibitions including Francis Greenway and Homesteads of Western New South Wales.

Capital Payments

Included in the Trust's capital program for 1996-97 are funds for the maintenance of its properties and for the upgrade of its computer system.

An amount of \$400,000 has been provided from the Trust's own resources for the finalisation of the fit-out work for the Museum of Sydney, which opened in March 1995.

ART GALLERY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Expenditure Trends and Recent Developments

The Art Gallery of New South Wales exhibits works of art from its own holdings, from collections overseas and other Australian sources. It conducts lectures and guided tours for schools and the public, screens films and provides an advisory service.

Strategic Directions

The Art Gallery's strategic objective is to develop and maintain a collection of works of art and to propagate and increase knowledge and appreciation of art.

1996-97 Budget

Current Payments

A number of major exhibitions are planned for 1996-97. These include -

- 1996 Biennale;
- Archibald, Wynne and Sulman and Dobell Prizes;
- Beyeler;
- Russian Avant Garde; and
- Dancing to the Flute.

The Gallery has been provided with an additional \$1 million per annum to expand its exhibition program and to fulfil its main function to enhance public access and improve the visibility, use and image of the Gallery's collection.

The Gallery has developed a program of ten exhibitions over the next four years. Each exhibition will involve works which have never been seen in Australia before.

An amount of \$250,000 has been allocated for a feasibility study in relation to the proposed extension of the Art Gallery building to include a new Japanese and contemporary Asian Art display gallery, new conservation studio and sculpture garden.

Capital Payments

An amount of \$1.7 million has been provided to meet major maintenance projects which include the replacement of the roof in certain areas of the Gallery, upgrade of emergency lights and exit signs and the upgrade of the air-conditioning system.

This will enable the Gallery to guarantee the safe housing of its collection and loan items and ensure the prestige of the Gallery is maintained.

ARCHIVES AUTHORITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Expenditure Trends and Recent Developments

The Archives Authority of New South Wales is responsible for the management of the Archives Office of New South Wales, the Government Records Repository and the Records Management Office.

The Authority has been involved in the drafting of new legislation to reconstitute it as the State Records Authority of New South Wales. The new legislation will provide protection for State records in all formats, including electronic records, over every stage of a record's life and over the full range of Government activity. Funds have been allocated to develop records management standards to apply across the public sector.

Strategic Directions

The Authority's priorities are the introduction and implementation of the new public records legislation; increased community support of archives and awareness of the functions and services of the Authority; rationalising accommodation and ensuring that sufficient space is available for the storage of records; and management of records, including the development of recordkeeping standards, policy directions for electronic recordkeeping and computerised control systems for the State's archives.

1996-97 Budget

Current Payments

The Authority will be developing records management standards to apply across the public sector and implementing its new legislation.

Capital Payments

Capital funding amounting to \$118,000 has been provided to upgrade equipment used in the Authority to provide a quality service. The program is based on recommendations of the Authority's customer council.

NEW SOUTH WALES FILM AND TELEVISION OFFICE

The New South Wales Film and Television Office promotes, encourages and facilitates film and television production in New South Wales, assists in script development, provides an efficient liaison service between filmmakers and property owners, and co-ordinates and supervises the production of documentary and promotional films for Government departments and authorities.

The Office has stimulated the cultural and economic growth of the New South Wales film and television industry and in turn delivered economic benefits to the State.

Expenditure Trends and Recent Developments

In 1995-96 the Government created a \$5 million revolving film financing fund to retain and attract film and television production to New South Wales, by discounting distribution guarantees and pre-sales for film and television projects. A further \$1.5 million was provided to increase assistance for film production, to establish a Young Filmmakers Fund and for other initiatives.

Strategic Directions

The Film and Television Office is committed to assist, promote and strengthen the film and television industry. Its main aim is to promote growth in jobs and investment and enhance the industry's export potential, whilst preserving and enhancing quality, innovation, local cultural wealth and identity.

1996-97 Budget

Current Payments

The Office will further its involvement with the industry through its script and project development program and its provision of pre-production and production support to film and television projects produced in New South Wales.

Capital Payments

An amount of \$94,000 has been provided this financial year to replace the Office's computer system.

ETHNIC AFFAIRS COMMISSION

The Ethnic Affairs Commission continues to promote the value of cultural diversity and the rights of individuals and groups from non English speaking backgrounds. The Commission is responsible for promoting unity and harmony in the community and ensuring the full participation of all persons in the community in the social, economic, public and cultural life of New South Wales.

In addition to providing the Government with ethnic affairs policy advice and services, the Commission also provides a comprehensive language and translating service.

The Commission is responsible for the implementation of the *New South Wales Charter of Principles for a Culturally Diverse Society*. This Charter requires all government agencies to develop programs, policies and services aimed at improving access and equity for people of non English speaking backgrounds and deriving maximum benefit for the community as a whole.

1996-97 Budget

Current Payments

The Ethnic Affairs Commission has estimated total payments of \$10.4 million in 1996-97. A total of \$1.446 million has been allocated to ensure an effective and targeted community grants program.

The Government has relaunched Carnivale as a separate Statewide event. Carnivale is hosted by the Commission and \$300,000 has been allocated for this purpose.

Capital Payments

The Commission has been allocated \$200,000 for the upgrade of computer hardware and the purchase of various applications, in accordance with its Information Technology Plan.

POLICE CORRUPTION COMMISSION

To give effect to the major recommendation of the Interim Report of the Royal Commission into the NSW Police Service, a Police Corruption Commission is to be established. The staffing structure and budget of the Commission will be finalised after the appointment of the initial Commissioner. It is anticipated that the Commissioner will be appointed by July 1996.

It is expected that the Commission will have between 50 and 70 staff. The new body will be phased in gradually from September 1996 and it is not expected that it will be fully operational until April 1997, after the Royal Commission has completed its Final Report.

The principal functions of the Commission will be to -

- prevent police misconduct;
- detect or investigate police misconduct;
- oversee other agencies in the detection or investigation of police misconduct; and
- take over responsibility for matters not completed by the Royal Commission.