

MINISTER FOR FAIR TRADING AND MINISTER FOR SPORT AND RECREATION

OVERVIEW

<i>Agency</i>	<i>Budget 1999-2000 \$m</i>	<i>Budget 2000-01 \$m</i>	<i>Variation %</i>
Department of Fair Trading			
Total Expenses	118.1	130.4	10.4
Asset Acquisitions	6.8	6.4	(-) 6.4
Department of Sport and Recreation			
Total Expenses	79.4	75.6	(-) 4.7
Asset Acquisitions	4.9	6.5	32.7
Rental Bond Board			
Total Expenses	24.2	25.1	3.7
Asset Acquisitions
State Sports Centre Trust			
Total Expenses	5.8	5.3	(-) 8.6
Asset Acquisitions	0.7	0.1	(-) 92.5
Total, Minister for Fair Trading and Minister for Sport and Recreation			
Total Expenses	227.5	236.4	3.9
Asset Acquisitions	12.4	13.0	4.8

DEPARTMENT OF FAIR TRADING

The Department provides a wide range of services to consumers and traders. These services cover business name registrations and licensing information, advice on home building, management and resolution of disputes under the Strata Schemes Management Act 1996 and advice and information on general consumer matters through Fair Trading Centres.

Other services provided by Fair Trading Centres include information on the rights and obligations of landlords and tenants, and on encumbrances on motor vehicles and boats.

The Department also administers the formation and regulation of co-operatives, monitors compliance aspects of trade measurement and undertakes a comprehensive monitoring and compliance program to remove hazardous products from the marketplace. The portfolio incorporates two tribunals – the Fair Trading Tribunal and the Residential Tribunal.

In 2000-01 the Department will provide advice to the public in response to:

- ◆ 817,000 fair trading enquiries;
- ◆ 882,000 Register of Encumbered Vehicles database enquiries
- ◆ 273,000 business names enquiries; and
- ◆ 126,000 traders licensing enquiries.

EXPENDITURE TRENDS AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Total expenses for 2000-01 are estimated to be \$130.4 million compared to a forecast \$117.1 million in 1999-2000. The increase in expenses is mainly attributable to a government grant of \$15 million being provided to the Fair Trading Administration Corporation to meet the deficit associated with the previous Statutory Insurance Schemes for residential building work. The Schemes were closed on 30 April 1997 but remaining funds are insufficient to meet projected future liabilities.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

The strategic intent of the Department of Fair Trading is for New South Wales to be recognised for value and fairness in the marketplace. The Department's key corporate objectives are:

- ◆ develop and maintain a policy framework which provides appropriate safeguards for consumers while minimising restrictions on business and traders;
- ◆ encourage maximum compliance with regulatory requirements through information for consumers and traders, compliance monitoring and enforcement, complaint handling and dispute resolution, and licensing, registration and certification; and
- ◆ use public resources accountably and ensure operations are economical, efficient and customer-focused.

2000-01 BUDGET

Total Expenses

Total expenses for 2000-01 are estimated at \$130.4 million. Significant expenses include:

- ◆ approximately \$18.9 million (\$18.0 million in 1999-2000) to fund the operations of the Fair Trading Tribunal and Residential Tribunal to assist in the resolution of disputes;
- ◆ \$11.9 million (\$10.5 million in 1999-2000) to detect and ultimately reduce unfair practices in the marketplace through the investigation of illegal conduct which leads to prosecution; and
- ◆ approximately \$25.4 million (\$24.7 million in 1999-2000) for costs related to Fair Trading Centres in city and regional areas, the Registry of Encumbered Vehicles and community education programs.

Asset Acquisitions

The Department's asset acquisition program of \$6.4 million provides for:

- ◆ upgrade of Local Area Network Technologies throughout the Department (\$1.6 million);
- ◆ expansion of the Department's Internet/Intranet system (\$0.7 million);
- ◆ feasibility studies of upgrading the Department's Customer Assistance System (\$0.2 million) and of creating an Online Registry (\$0.2 million) for a number of the Department's licensing areas;
- ◆ acquisition of an Interactive Voice Response System (\$0.2 million);
- ◆ upgrade of the Rental Bond Board's computer hardware (\$0.5 million);
- ◆ establishment of a computer link from the Register of Encumbered Vehicles (REVS) database to the National Exchange of Driver Information system (\$0.4 million);
- ◆ Phase 2 of implementation of the REVS Online system (\$0.5 million);
- ◆ relocation of the REVS from Liverpool to Parramatta (\$0.6 million); and
- ◆ replacement of minor plant and equipment (\$1.5 million).

DEPARTMENT OF SPORT AND RECREATION

EXPENDITURE TRENDS AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

During 1999-2000, the Department continued to support the development of sport and recreation services at the state and local level. It provides a range of direct services to organisations and the community ranging from advisory services to crime prevention programs, outdoor education programs and learn to swim programs.

In addition, the Department has placed particular emphasis on developing services in regional and rural New South Wales. The Department also provides grant programs to support facility development through the Capital Assistance Program and the Regional Sports Facility Program. The Regional Sports Facility Program in particular, places a high priority on supporting infrastructure development in rural and regional communities.

The Department has maintained its emphasis on ensuring quality outcomes for disadvantaged groups in partnership with other agencies. This includes the development of the Active and Able program in conjunction with the Motor Accidents Authority, the Facility Development program with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission and the Youth at Risk program with the Police and Community Youth Clubs.

Core activities have been refocussed with increased emphasis being placed on skill development within communities, facilitating partnerships at the local level and ensuring more direct community access to grant programs.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

Following the refocussing of its services the Department is now well placed to support the community in using sport and recreation services to enhance its well being. The Department will continue to build partnerships, work to develop the capacity of industry organisations and support good practice activities within the industry.

Major priorities for 2000-01 are:

- ◆ Developing services in rural and regional New South Wales;
- ◆ Building the capacity of sport and recreation services in the community;
- ◆ Using the Internet and other technologies to ensure easier and greater access to information and services and improved communication with customers;

- ◆ Increasing the use of sport, recreation and physical activity to address emerging social and health issues such as crime prevention, social dislocation and substance abuse;
- ◆ Identifying and developing specialist service areas within the Department, particularly the outdoor education program area; and
- ◆ Improving communication and partnerships by systematically including key stakeholders in planning and assessment processes.

2000-01 BUDGET

Total Expenses

A total of \$76.2 million will be spent by the Department in 2000-01 to provide and facilitate quality sport and recreation services. Overall spending will be \$3.7 million lower than the 1999-2000 Budget due to the conclusion of Olympic related grants programs (\$6.6 million). Additional funding in 2000-01 is comprised of grants for:

- ◆ \$2 million to resurface the Sydney Cricket Ground;
- ◆ an additional \$1.3 million to the New South Wales Institute of Sport for entry fees of athletes to Olympic facilities after the 2000 games and to increase its capacity to deliver services in regional and rural NSW; and
- ◆ an additional \$0.5 million for maintenance of building and land improvements at Sport and Recreation Centres and the Academies of Sport.

Major features of the Department's expenditure include:

- ◆ \$29.5 million for sport and recreation programs co-ordinated by the Department's Regional Offices or provided at Sport and Recreation Centres and Academies of Sport;
- ◆ \$15.4 million in grants from the Sport and Recreation Fund for the operation of sporting associations, sports development grants and sporting facilities capital grants. This includes payments for sports development (\$2.7 million), water safety programs (\$0.9 million), the Youth at Risk Program (\$0.3 million), Assistance to Athletes with a Disability Program (\$0.2 million) and capital projects under the Capital Assistance Program (\$4 million) and the Regional Sports Facilities Program (\$3.3 million); and
- ◆ \$9.9 million in administered grant funding towards the operations of the NSW Institute of Sport (\$4.8 million) and the Sydney International Athletic and

Aquatic Centres (\$4.3 million) in addition to maintenance funding for the State Sports Centre (\$0.8 million).

Asset Acquisitions

A total of \$6.5 million will be spent in 2000-01. The asset acquisition program comprises:

- ◆ \$3.04 million to build new accommodation units at Broken Bay, Milson Island, Myuna Bay and Lake Ainsworth Sport and Recreation Centres;
- ◆ \$1.2 million to continue remediation of the shotgun range at the Sydney Academy of Sport;
- ◆ \$0.84 million to complete construction of the International Centre for Athletes with a Disability at the Sydney Academy of Sport;
- ◆ \$0.4 million to extend the multi purpose indoor recreation hall at Point Wollstoncroft; and
- ◆ \$1 million for annual provisions and a number of minor works projects at the Department's Sport and Recreation Centres and Academies of Sport.

RENTAL BOND BOARD

The Rental Bond Board is a statutory corporation, established under the *Landlord and Tenant (Rental Bonds) Act 1977*, and is the custodian of rental bonds taken on private residential tenancies in New South Wales. It comprises five members, one of whom is the Director General of the Department of Fair Trading. The activities of the Board are undertaken by staff employed by the Department of Fair Trading.

EXPENDITURE TRENDS AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

The Board is a self funding body, and derives its income from interest earned on rental bond deposits and accumulated funds. In 2000-01, rental bond deposits are estimated to be \$440 million, which should generate approximately \$30 million of revenue.

As well as the cost of bond administration, the Board funds 50 percent of the operating expenses of the Residential Tribunal and the Tenants Advice and Advocacy Program and all the costs of Tenancy Services.

2000-01 BUDGET

Total expenses are estimated at \$25.1 million in 2000-01 compared with \$24.2 million in 1999-2000 and include provision for:

- ◆ \$6.3 million contribution towards the Residential Tribunal;
- ◆ \$3 million for grants including the Tenants Advice and Advocacy Program; and
- ◆ \$1.4 million to meet operating costs of the Strata Schemes Office.

STATE SPORTS CENTRE TRUST

As required under its Charter the Trust will continue to provide affordable world-class facilities to the sporting community and assist NSW Institute of Sport athletes. In order for the Trust to discharge its community service obligations, the Department of Sport and Recreation provides an operating subsidy to the Trust.

EXPENDITURE TRENDS AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Expenditure over the past five years has remained at constant levels after deducting depreciation and losses on asset disposal. Olympic construction works over the last two years have had an impact on the Centre. A major asset acquired from the Olympic Co-ordination Authority in 1998-99 was the Olympic Hockey Centre.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

The Trust's medium term objective is to provide its facilities at a high standard for the Olympics whilst minimising disruptions to its operations pre and post the four to five months "exclusive use periods" of the Games. Longer term, marketing initiatives are planned to increasingly attract sporting and commercial events.

2000-01 BUDGET

Total Expenses

Total trust expenses, estimated at \$5.3 million in 2000-01, will be used to provide and maintain the Centre's sporting facilities.

During and prior to the "exclusive use period" the Olympic Co-ordination Authority will upgrade the centre to Olympic standard with funding estimated to be \$1.2 million.