

### 4.3.17 MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS AND SERVICES AND MINISTER FOR PORTS

#### OVERVIEW

| Agency   | Forecast<br>1995-96 | Estimate<br>1996-97 | Variation |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|-----------|
|  | \$m                 | \$m                 | %         |
| <b>Office of the Minister for Public Works and Services</b>                                      |                     |                     |           |
| Current Payments .....   | 37.3                | 40.5                | 8.6       |
| Capital Payments .....   | 13.5                | 12.4                | (-) 8.1   |
| <b>Office of Marine Safety and Ports Strategy</b>  |                     |                     |           |
| Current Payments .....   | 9.0                 | 5.9                 | (-) 4.4   |
| Capital Payments .....   | 0.4                 | 0.6                 | 50.0      |
| <b>Waterways Authority</b>   |                     |                     |           |
| Current Payments .....   | ...                 | 25.2                | ...       |
| Capital Payments .....   | ...                 | 4.9                 | ...       |
| <b>Total, Minister for Public Works and Services and Minister for Ports <sup>(a)</sup></b> ..... | <b>60.2</b>         | <b>89.5</b>         | ...       |

(a) A comparison of the total payments for the Minister for Public Works and Services is not available because Waterway Authority was a non Budget Sector agency in 1995-96.

#### OFFICE OF THE MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS AND SERVICES

Recurrent funds provided to the Office of the Minister for Public Works and Services enable the purchase of a range of services from the Department of Public Works and Services including -

- Government wide information technology and telecommunications policy and services;
- advice on key resource issues such as Total Asset Management;
- risk management services for the substantial portion of the State's capital works projects; and

- the development of a whole of Government approach to the procurement of goods and services with significant cost benefits.

The Office's capital program provides for the development of a number of specialist projects covering key Government buildings, facilities and heritage works.

## **Expenditure Trends and Recent Developments**

Funding of \$11 million (\$1.5 million in 1996-97, \$4.4 million in 1997-98 and \$3.2 million in 1998-99) is being provided for the purchase of yellowblock sandstone. This will ensure a supply of suitable yellowblock sandstone which is compatible to that used in heritage buildings in the Sydney area. The extraction of the sandstone is subject to obtaining appropriate planning approvals.

## **Strategic Directions**

The Office of the Minister for Public Works and Services has an advisory role to Government and agencies on -

- the management of existing assets to meet service wide requirements through non-build solutions;
- the application of information technology and communications which reduce the cost of service delivery and provide effective services to the community; and
- the development of strategies to implement a State wide public sector information system.

In addition, the Office will further -

- develop risk management and ensure value for money and public accountability when purchasing services from the private sector;
- develop industry reform strategies in the building and construction industry; and
- maximise benefits through whole of Government purchasing power and contractual arrangements.

## **1996-97 Budget**

### **Current Payments**

Funds totaling \$10.03 million have been allocated to Project Risk Management and Total Asset Management activities in 1996-97 to enable the continuation and further development of strategies in managing the procurement and ongoing maintenance of infrastructure.

The development of Information Technology and Telecommunications policy and services has been allocated \$2.6 million.

The Budget also provides \$4.4 million for ongoing Construction Industry Development and \$3.8 million for the provision of Government wide contracts for goods and services which pass on savings to agencies through the bulk purchasing power of the Government.

An amount of \$1.3 million has been provided for the maintenance of Parliament House and Government House.

### **Capital Payments**

The program of stonework and heritage maintenance (\$4 million) has been provided with an additional \$1.5 million for the purchase of sandstone. Restoration work will be carried out on Sydney TAFE, the Australian Museum and Government House.

Funding of \$1.3 million has been provided for the continuation of restoration work on the historic Coffs Harbour Jetty. \$3.1 million has been provided for the Government Radio Network to ensure that it can meet emergency service requirements.

### **OFFICE OF MARINE SAFETY AND PORT STRATEGY**

The Office of Marine Safety and Port Strategy administers the marine affairs of the State under the powers provided to the Minister for Ports under the Ports Corporatisation and Waterways Management Act 1995.

### **Expenditure Trends and Recent Developments**

Through the enactment of the Ports Corporatisation and Waterways Management Act, the former Maritime Services Board was dissolved on 30 June 1995 and replaced by six new entities that commenced operations on 1 July 1995. The corporatisation of the Maritime Services Board will have no net impact on the budget in 1996-97. The Office of Marine Safety and Port Strategy is one of the six new entities.

During 1995-96, the Office managed the funding paid to the Waterways Authority for harbour cleaning. A budget subsidy of \$1.9 million was provided for harbour cleaning in Sydney Harbour, the Myall Lakes and Lake Macquarie.

From 1996-97, the Office will operate as a Budget Sector agency and total payments in 1996-97 will be \$6.5 million.

### **Strategic Directions**

The objectives of the Office of Marine Safety and Port Strategy are to -

- achieve a high level of marine and environmental safety in New South Wales ports and waterways;
- set the overall strategic direction and goals for port development and port performance in New South Wales;
- manage the strategic port assets of New South Wales, in a responsible and commercial manner, to ensure that they are used in a manner so as to contribute to the State economy;
- manage the operations and development of the minor ports of New South Wales to maximise their contribution to the economic development of their regions;

- exercise the role of consent authority under the Environmental Protection Agency Act, and provide planning advice in proposed developments within Sydney Harbour and other wetlands (land below the mean high water mark) within the Marine Ministerial Holding Corporation (MMHC); and
- efficiently and effectively manage the MMHC with regard to the residual responsibilities of the Maritime Services Board.

## **1996-97 Budget**

### **Current Payments**

Total current funding in 1996-97 will be \$5.9 million. This includes funding for a subsidy to the Newcastle Ports Corporation for lease administration at Kooragang Island (\$0.08 million).

### **Capital Payments**

Total capital funding in 1996-97 will be \$0.6 million. This includes funding for the acquisition of motor vehicles (\$0.2 million) and for plant and equipment (\$0.4 million).

## **WATERWAYS AUTHORITY**

The Waterways Authority is responsible for all waterways management functions under the marine legislation relating to commercial vessels and recreational boats. The Authority also manages land vested in the Marine Ministerial Holding Corporation.

The Authority will receive \$1.9 million in 1996-97 for Sydney Harbour cleaning and the maintenance of sewage pump-services in Sydney Harbour, Myall Lakes and Lake Macquarie. The benefits are enjoyed by the tourist industry, harbour side councils, the boating community, waterfront property holders and the general public who use the beaches and foreshores.

### **Expenditure Trends and Recent Developments**

The Waterways Authority was one of the six new entities which replaced the former Maritime Services Board on 1 July 1995.

From 1996-97, the Authority will operate as a Budget Sector agency and total payments in 1996-97 will be \$30 million.

The Authority completed the development of its major operational computer system, WALROS in 1995-96. In addition, Interactive Voice Response was introduced as a service for customers to pay their licence, registration and mooring licence renewals and receive general information on a 24 hour per day, 7 days per week basis. A vessel identification process and Hull Identification Number (HIN) System to enable vessel financial encumbrances to be incorporated on the Register of Encumbered Vehicles (REVs) was also implemented.

Operating expenditure for 1995-96 is estimated to be \$25.7 million. Expenditure on the maintenance of navigation aids, wharves, WALROS - the recreational boating and commercial vessels system, and the provision of other miscellaneous services is estimated to be \$3.5 million.

### **Strategic Directions**

The Authority's corporate plan promotes a commercial approach to service delivery management. It is directed towards specific external challenges such as -

- balancing the needs and requirements of all waterways users and ensuring safe navigation;
- protecting the marine environment from the impact of recreational and commercial vessels;
- preparing for staging Olympic and other special events on Sydney Harbour and other waterways; and
- the development of management plans for the State's waterways.

### **1996-97 Budget**

#### **Current Payments**

Total Current Payments for 1996-97 will be \$25.2 million. This includes amounts for navigation aids (\$2.3 million), compliance enforcement (\$7.2 million), education (\$7.2 million), wetland (land below the mean high water mark) leases and assessment (\$2.7 million) and geographic information and drafting (\$1.2 million).

#### **Capital Payments**

The Authority has historically given priority to the renewal of assets such as vehicles and vessels for regulatory compliance and operational requirements. This priority is maintained in the Authority's current capital strategy.

Capital expenditure to upgrade the property assets register, plant assets register and cash register systems are also part of the strategy. Telecommunications will be improved through the provision of LAN/ISDN access. This investment will reduce operational costs and improve the communications infrastructure throughout the Authority's locations.

Total Capital Payments for 1996-97 will be \$4.9 million. This included amounts for the purchase of motor vehicles and boats (\$1.9 million), and the purchase of new plant and equipment (\$2.5 million).