

PREMIER, MINISTER FOR THE ARTS AND MINISTER FOR CITIZENSHIP

OVERVIEW

<i>Agency</i>	<i>Budget 1999-2000 \$m</i>	<i>Budget 2000-01 \$m</i>	<i>Variation %</i>
Cabinet Office			
Total Expenses	12.8	14.5	12.8
Asset Acquisitions	0.1	0.2	100.0
Parliamentary Counsel's Office			
Total Expenses	5.4	5.8	7.4
Asset Acquisitions	0.4	1.1	175.0
Premier's Department			
Total Expenses	73.7	93.5	26.8
Asset Acquisitions	1.6	0.2	(-) 84.9
Independent Commission Against Corruption			
Total Expenses	15.1	15.4	2.2
Asset Acquisitions	0.2	0.5	125.0
Ombudsman's Office			
Total Expenses	8.7	8.9	2.3
Asset Acquisitions	0.5	1.4	180.0
State Electoral Office			
Total Expenses	14.3	8.6	(-) 40.1
Asset Acquisitions
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal			
Total Expenses	5.7	6.1	7.0
Asset Acquisitions	0.1	0.1	...
Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust			
Total Expenses	11.7	14.2	21.1
Asset Acquisitions	14.5	14.2	(-) 1.8
Commission for Children and Young People			
Total Expenses	5.0	4.9	(-) 3.1
Asset Acquisitions	0.5	0.1	(-) 88.7
Ministry for the Arts			
Total Expenses	51.9	59.4	14.6
Asset Acquisitions	20.3	19.0	(-) 6.5

<i>Agency</i>	<i>Budget 1999-2000 \$m</i>	<i>Budget 2000-01 \$m</i>	<i>Variation %</i>
State Library of New South Wales			
Total Expenses	50.4	53.7	6.5
Asset Acquisitions	4.6	5.4	19.1
Australian Museum			
Total Expenses	33.5	33.4	(0.3)
Asset Acquisitions	5.0	3.8	(23.9)
Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences			
Total Expenses	38.4	41.4	7.8
Asset Acquisitions	5.7	4.5	(20.3)
Historic Houses Trust of New South Wales			
Total Expenses	18.2	19.2	5.9
Asset Acquisitions	1.2	0.9	(23.8)
Art Gallery of New South Wales			
Total Expenses	26.0	27.2	4.3
Asset Acquisitions	3.8	8.4	120.4
State Records Authority			
Total Expenses	9.1	9.2	1.1
Asset Acquisitions	5.4	4.3	(20.4)
New South Wales Film and Television Office			
Total Expenses	7.0	7.7	10.0
Asset Acquisitions
Ethnic Affairs Commission			
Total Expenses	11.9	12.3	3.4
Asset Acquisitions	0.6	...	(100.0)
Audit Office of New South Wales			
Total Expenses	22.0	23.3	5.9
Asset Acquisitions	0.4	0.1	(80.0)
Total, Premier, Minister for the Arts and Minister for Citizenship			
Total Expenses	420.8	458.7	9.0
Asset Acquisitions	64.9	64.2	(-) 1.1

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 Commonwealth-State issues and advises the Premier on legal matters which arise within his administration. The Cabinet Office provides all secretarial services for the Cabinet including preparation of agendas, recording of decisions, circulation and presentation of Cabinet Minutes and Discussion Papers, and follow-up action required.

EXPENDITURE TRENDS AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Expenditure trends have remained stable over the recent years. Over the past five years, the core responsibilities of the Cabinet Office have remained unchanged. However, on occasions, the Office has been given responsibility for various strategic policy issues requiring the establishment of specialised units within the Office. Responsibility for the co-ordination and development of social policy, as well as policy in relation to children and young people was transferred to the Cabinet Office resulting in the creation of the Social Policy Development Unit in 1995 and the Office of Children and Young People in 1997. The Office of Children and Young People also provides secretarial support to the Youth Advisory Council that reports to the Premier. The Natural Resources Branch since 1997 has also absorbed responsibility for co-ordination of greenhouse policy. The Office of Drug Policy was established in 1999 to co-ordinate and develop policy in response to the Drug Summit.

2000-01 BUDGET

Total Expenses

The Cabinet Office has estimated total expenses of \$14.5 million. This includes \$1.1 million for the continuation of the Families First initiative involving the co-ordination of the establishment of a network of childcare experts and volunteers to assist with parenting skills.

Asset Acquisition

The capital allocation of \$0.2 million is mainly for the development of an electronic Cabinet Document Management System.

PARLIAMENTARY COUNSEL'S OFFICE

The Parliamentary Counsel's Office develops and drafts Government legislation for presentation to Parliament or the Governor-in-Council. The Office provides legal and administrative advice to the Government, a legislative drafting service for non-Government Members of Parliament and undertakes research on legislative and related matters. It also provides a legislative publishing service to the Government, Parliament and the public including the production of Bills, new Acts and Regulations, updated reprints of legislation and information guides and compiles the New South Wales Legislation Database.

EXPENDITURE TRENDS AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Expenditure trends have not varied markedly over the past five years, apart from the general movements in salaries and operating costs affecting the public sector. This reflects the continuity of the Office's core functions and activities and its relatively stable staffing levels.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

A capital allocation of \$1.5 million was provided over three years from 1998-99 for a major program to replace the existing legislative drafting, publishing and database systems. In conjunction with the capital allocation provided the Office is developing new Information Technology systems for legislative drafting and publishing that will enhance the portability and accessibility of legislation using new technology, including the Internet.

2000-01 BUDGET

Total Expenses

Total expenses of the Parliamentary Counsel's Office are estimated to be \$5.8 million with about 80 percent being allocated to employee related payments.

Asset Acquisitions

The capital allocation of \$1.1 million (\$1.5 million over three years starting from 1998-99) is for a major program to replace the existing legislative drafting, publishing and database system.

PREMIER'S DEPARTMENT

Premier's Department supports the Premier as head of Government. It provides strategic advice and services to the Premier, manages issues and projects of significance to the State. The Department also provides direction and leadership to the NSW public sector, especially in relationship to the effective management of public sector staff and resources and ensures a whole-of-government approach to policy development and service provision within the public sector.

EXPENDITURE TRENDS AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

The expenditure trends over the past five years have increased from approximately \$71.7 million in 1996-97 to a budgeted figure of \$93.5 million in 2000-01.

Funding in 2000-01 has increased primarily due to a large rise in Grants and Subsidies to other agencies along with general movements in Public Service Award payments. Grants and Subsidies to other agencies has increased in 2000-01 as the Department now manages the Police Complaints Case Management System and the Regional Integrated Service Delivery program costing \$11.9 million and \$3.5 million respectively.

The Corporate Services Reform Unit and the Office of the Council on the Cost of Government were amalgamated in November 1999 to form a new Review and Reform Division.

The new Division will service the Council on the Cost and Quality of Government (formerly the Council on the Cost of Government) and the Peer Review Committee the Government's corporate services reform initiatives. The Division will also advise and assist the Director-General and the Premier in developing and overseeing reform initiatives, with a view to achieving a high quality and cost effective public sector. Total expenses for the new Division in 2000-01 are estimated at \$3.6 million.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

The Department will continue to provide services which focus on:

- ◆ Whole-of-government co-ordination of major business, investment, and community proposals and initiatives;
- ◆ Improving the management of public sector resources to achieve improved equity, efficiency and effectiveness; and

- ◆ Improving opportunities and government service delivery in targeted metropolitan, regional and rural areas and towns.

2000-01 BUDGET

The Department manages, on the Premier's behalf, a range of special projects, such as initiatives to minimise the impact of the Newcastle BHP steel mill closure and coordination of government activities relating to the Tumut Pulp and Paper Mill. The Department plays a leading role in attracting major events to Sydney and New South Wales, and coordinates the ongoing improvements in social development and community in both urban and regional New South Wales. To achieve these improvements two initiatives including the Migration Heritage Centre and the Strengthening Local Communities Strategy have received funding in 2000-01 of \$375,000 and \$530,000 respectively.

In 2000-01, the Department will continue to manage operational issues relating to office staffing and resources for the Premier's and Ministers' Offices, as well as the Offices of the leaders of the Opposition and former Officer holders' staff. Expenses in relation to the above initiatives are estimated at \$19.1 million.

Work includes liaising with agencies to develop and promote new models of service delivery to improve community outcomes, including Whole of Government initiatives and identify and resolve barriers to collaborative approaches.

This will include negotiation of sector wide pay awards and changes to the Public Sector Management Act. Expenses in relation to these initiatives are estimated at \$25.5 million.

The Department manages and co-ordinates services for the Premier in community events, official visits and executive administration, especially activities associated with the Olympic and Paralympic Games and the Centenary of Federation.

It has a pivotal role in the management of those community projects of direct concern to the Premier, and provides for the co-ordination of State responses in times of natural disasters.

It is also involved in management aspects of the Governor's constitutional, ceremonial and community roles, and the provision of actuarial services. Expenses in relation to these initiatives are estimated at \$25.8 million.

Asset Acquisitions

In 2000-01, \$0.25 million will be spent on the purchase of minor office equipment.

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, by conducting robust investigations using its Royal Commission and other special powers, by applying the latest corruption prevention methods and through education.

EXPENDITURE TRENDS AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Expenses of the Commission over the past five years have remained relatively constant with the projected total expenses for 1999-2000 being \$15.1 million. There have not been any significant changes in the responsibilities, functions or the operating environment of the Commission.

During 1999-2000 the Commission was involved in various major investigations, including examining corruption within and affecting the Roads and Traffic Authority, Greyhound Racing Authority and the Illawarra Development Board. It also concluded and tabled in Parliament several reports, including its investigations into Liverpool City Council, the Environment Protection Authority, Aboriginal Land Councils, Sydney Ferries and the Illawarra Development Board.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

In 2000-01 the Commission will maintain its focus on exposing and preventing corruption in the public sector through proactive investigations and corruption prevention advice while simultaneously promoting and enhancing its education and research activities. The Commission anticipates continuing its involvement in major Government infrastructure projects, including the Olympics as the decommissioning phase commences. The Commission will begin looking at the investigation of, and providing advice about, Internet fraud and corruption.

2000-01 BUDGET

Total Expenses

Estimated total expenses of the Commission in 2000-01 are \$15.4 million. It is expected the Commission will maintain its current level of investigation, corruption prevention and education activities while also commencing activities relating to Internet fraud and corruption.

Asset Acquisitions

In 2000-01, \$450,000 will be spent on the replacement of the Commission's records and electronic document management systems and necessary upgrades of its investigative technology.

OMBUDSMAN'S OFFICE

The Ombudsman's Office aims to improve public administration and ensure that maladministration and misconduct are appropriately addressed. The Office seeks to ensure that people and bodies within its jurisdiction deal effectively with complaints about their activities.

The Office attempts to resolve complaints in a prompt manner, focusing upon matters that raise systemic issues or are likely to be more intractable. The aim with such investigations is to improve policies and practices and to promote responsive and accountable public administration.

EXPENDITURE TRENDS AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

The total expenses of the Ombudsman's Office have been increasing over the last five years. This increase is largely due to the expansion of the Ombudsman's jurisdiction to include activities such as investigation of child abuse allegations against employees of Government and non-Government agencies and the provision of increased resources in response to the Royal Commission into the Police Service.

It is expected that in 1999-2000 the Ombudsman's Office will deal with over 2,900 complaints against employees of Government agencies and non-Government organisations, and 5,900 complaints about Police.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

The implementation of the *Ombudsman Amendment (Child Protection and Community Services) Act* was the major focus of the Ombudsman's Office in 1999-2000. Early indications are that this will generate additional workload for the Office. Consequently, the Ombudsman's office will review its work practices in 2000-01.

Other priorities of the Ombudsman during 2000-01 will be:

- ◆ more "own motion" (Ombudsman initiated investigations) and other formal investigations focusing on systemic or public interest issues;
- ◆ more Special Reports to Parliament on public interest issues;
- ◆ greater emphasis on assisting agencies to deal with their own complaints (including the publication of the Ombudsman's comprehensive Complaint Handler's Tool Kit);
- ◆ review of agency Freedom of Information reporting and compliance with the Protected Disclosure Act; and
- ◆ continuation of a customer service survey of agencies within the Ombudsman's jurisdiction.

2000-01 BUDGET

Total Expenses

Total expenses of the Ombudsman's Office are projected to be \$8.9 million in 2000-01. Included in this amount is an additional \$0.119 million provided for IT related staff for the Police Case Management System.

Asset Acquisitions

In 2000-01 the Ombudsman's Office will be undertaking an asset acquisition program totalling \$1.4 million. The program involves development of the Police Complaints Case Management system in conjunction with the NSW Police Service and Police Integrity Commission. Funding for this program will be provided through the Premier's Department.

STATE ELECTORAL OFFICE

The State Electoral Office is responsible for the management and administration of Parliamentary elections, by-elections and referendums, and, through the Election Funding Authority, the public funding of election campaigns. The Authority is also responsible for the management and administration of the Political Education Fund established in 1993.

In addition, the Office conducts, in accordance with the appropriate legislation, such elections as local government, trade unions, statutory boards, registered clubs and ballots for enterprise agreements. These elections are conducted on a commercial basis.

EXPENDITURE TRENDS AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Trends in expenditure are directly related to the occurrence of general elections, redistributions and to a lesser extent, by-elections.

There were significant increase in expenditure in the 1994-95 and 1998-99 financial years for the conduct of State general elections for the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council. This expenditure also included claims for payments by eligible candidates, groups and parties for funding of their election campaigns. It is usual for the majority of such claims to be processed in the ensuing financial year for each election.

In September 1999 the Office also conducted the Local Government General Election pursuant to the provisions of the Local Government Act. These elections are operated on a cost recovery basis.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

During the coming years the Office will review systems, procedures and service delivery for the elections due to be held in 2003. During the Budget year the Office will examine the effectiveness of procedures, processes and initiatives (especially those of an information technology nature) used during the 1999 State general election to develop appropriate strategies and mechanisms to facilitate the conduct of the next general election.

These reviews will also focus on the duties, responsibilities and subsequent training of Returning Officers. The Office is confident it is able to address all these issues without interfering with its ability to deliver its usual services, particularly in the areas of the conduct of elections, electoral education, election funding and research and development.

2000-01 BUDGET

Total Expenses

The State Electoral Office has estimated total expenses of \$8.6 million. Payments to the Commonwealth under the Joint Roll Agreement (\$2.8 million in 2000-01), that have been agreed to by all States, will continue to be met.

Elections may also be conducted during 2000-01 for councils that did not participate in the Local Government general election in September 1999 due to amalgamation. These elections will be conducted on a cost recovery basis.

INDEPENDENT PRICING AND REGULATORY TRIBUNAL

The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) determines maximum prices for monopoly services provided by major NSW government utilities. In addition, it regulates natural gas tariffs and third party access to gas networks. It also carries out reviews of industry pricing and competition. Within its area of expertise, IPART provides assistance to other NSW and interstate government agencies.

EXPENDITURE TRENDS AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

IPART's expenditure has increased from \$2 million in 1994-95 to an anticipated \$6.3 million in 1999-2000. The increased expenditure reflects changes in the range, volume and complexity of work.

Since 1994-95 the work of IPART has expanded beyond setting maximum prices for electricity, metropolitan water and Sydney and Newcastle government passenger transport services. Additional activities now undertaken include advice on competitive neutrality, setting gas tariffs, regulating gas networks and conducting arbitration proceedings between market participants.

The introduction of national codes for the regulation of prices in the electricity and gas industries has also made regulation of these areas more complex.

The approach to price regulation is constantly evolving and thus requires a research capacity. The Tribunal maintains an interest in overseas developments as well as continuing membership of the Australian Regulators' Forum. Other members of the Forum include the Australian Consumer and Competition Commission and representatives of price regulators in each of the states and territories. The regulatory bodies are examining closely the impact of the goods and services tax on utility prices.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

IPART has been subject to an external review of its performance and structure over the last two years. In addition, a review of the IPART Act 1992 will commence this calendar year. The outcome of this review may impact on IPART's functions and the way it performs those functions.

The expansion and growing complexity of IPART's workload is anticipated to continue. For these reasons IPART has reviewed its structure, internal processes and delivery mechanisms. Structural changes were implemented recently with an increased emphasis on staff training, research and the quality of support services. The benefits of these changes will be realised over the coming year.

IPART recognises the need for greater investment in its human capital if it is to maintain and improve the quality of its services.

In conjunction with the review of its Act, IPART is committed to the preparation of a detailed business plan and the development of appropriate performance indicators.

2000-01 BUDGET

Additional funding for operating expenses has been provided to cover the expanded regulatory functions of the Tribunal. The total Consolidated Fund allocation in 2000-01 is estimated at \$5.6 million, an increase of \$300,000 or 6 percent over the preceding period.

CENTENNIAL PARK AND MOORE PARK TRUST

The Centennial Park and Moore Park Trust is responsible for managing and maintaining a highly used area of open space in Sydney, known as the Centennial Parklands. The Trust operates in a complex and changing business environment and has managed the former Sydney Showgrounds site at Paddington, since February 1998.

EXPENDITURE TRENDS AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Total expenses for the Trust have increased significantly during the last five years from \$7.7 million in 1996-97 to around \$11.1 million in 1999-2000. This reflects additional costs associated with improvements to the maintenance of the Parklands, the introduction of services to address public safety issues and a range of business activities aimed at improving financial viability.

Capital expenditure has increased significantly during the last four years due to the completed restoration of the Equestrian Centre, the Hordern Pavilion and the Royal Hall of Industries, continuation of the ponds restoration project and the rehabilitation of Moore Park and the commencement of the Centenary of Federation Projects.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

The Trust's corporate strategy aims to achieve the following outcomes:

- ◆ maintaining and enhancing business viability;
- ◆ enhancing the integrity of Centennial Parklands;
- ◆ improving relationships with stakeholders;
- ◆ preserving the natural and cultural heritage of the Parklands;
- ◆ ensuring safe and equitable access to the Parklands; and
- ◆ securing opportunities for diversity of cultural expression.

The Trust implements financial strategies to increase and diversify its revenue base in order to improve the quality of services and increase contributions towards costs.

2000-01 BUDGET

Total Expenses

Total expenses in 2000-01, estimated at \$14.2 million, include enhancements for incremental costs following the rehabilitation of Moore Park (\$0.3 million), for the development and implementation of parking management initiatives (\$0.5 million) and for evaluation studies of redevelopment strategies in the Moore Park Golf Club precinct (\$0.2 million).

Asset Acquisitions

The Trust's total asset acquisitions program 2000-01, estimated at \$14.2 million, provides for:

- ◆ \$6.9 million funded from Commonwealth Government grants for Centenary of Federation works, including Federation Drive and Federation Valley;
- ◆ \$3.3 million for the continuing rehabilitation of Moore Park East and West as the result of Eastern Distributor construction; and
- ◆ \$1 million for the continuation of the restoration of the Centennial Park ponds.

COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The Commission for Children and Young People was established in June 1999 to listen to children and young people and to promote their interests. The Commission's aim is to work with others to make New South Wales a better place for children and young people.

EXPENDITURE TRENDS AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

During 1999-2000 the Commission established its new premises, recruited staff and acquired the IT infrastructure necessary for the operations of the Commission. The Commission released two reports of the Child Death Review Team which investigates all child deaths in New South Wales, undertook a review of the Interagency Guidelines into Child Protection Intervention and began an inquiry into "Children who have no-one to turn to". In 1999-2000 total expenses are estimated at \$4.1 million.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

In 2000-01, a major focus of the Commission will be the implementation of Part 7 of the Commission for Children and Young People Act 1998 and the Child Protection (Prohibited Employment) Act 1998. These Acts require all people seeking child-related employment, (for example teachers, childcare workers etc.) to be subject to some form of screening and requires them to declare whether they are a "prohibited person".

Other priorities in 2000-01 will be:

- ◆ releasing a 3 year strategic plan;
- ◆ completing the inquiry into "Children who have no-one to turn to";
- ◆ establishing the Commission's website;
- ◆ initiating research into youth suicide, measures of children's well being and child homicide; and
- ◆ establishing a voluntary accreditation scheme for people who work with sex offenders.

2000-01 BUDGET

Total Expenses

Estimated total expenses of the Commission in 2000-01 are \$4.9 million. In 2000-01 the Commission will fully implement mandatory employment screening for child related employment for the first time in New South Wales.

Asset Acquisitions

The capital allocation of \$0.06 million for 2000-01 is for minor enhancements to the Commission's information management systems and the purchase of minor plant and equipment.

MINISTRY FOR THE ARTS

The Ministry monitors and provides policy advice on the State's cultural institutions, administers a cultural grants program which supports a range of arts and cultural organisations and activities across the State, and provides a range of awards, fellowships and scholarships to individuals, and manages Government arts projects, properties and capital expenditures.

EXPENDITURE TRENDS AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Over the past five years total expenses have increased from \$52.7 million in 1995-96 to an expected \$55.7 million in 1999-2000. This increase is primarily related to additional support provided to arts organisations via the cultural grants program and general movements in salaries and operating costs affecting the public sector.

In 1999-2000 the Ministry provided more than 700 grants worth a total of \$18.1 million through the cultural grants program. This has risen steadily from \$12.0 million distributed in 1995-1996.

In recent years the Government's cultural policy has focused on developing cultural activities and infrastructure in regional areas and encouraging co-operation and resource sharing within the portfolio. Emphasis has also been given to providing strategic support for arts development in Western Sydney.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

The Ministry's key strategic directions include:

- ◆ implementation of the Government's 1999 cultural development policy "Encouraging the Arts in Local Communities"; and
- ◆ consultation, refinement and implementation of the Government's Western Sydney Arts Strategy.

2000-01 BUDGET

Total Expenses

Total expenses are estimated at \$59.4 million. The Ministry will distribute \$20.9 million under the State's cultural grants program during 2000-01.

The Major Performing Arts Inquiry, initiated by the Commonwealth Government in response to deteriorating financial performance by major performing arts companies, made 95 recommendations designed to stabilise the sector and reposition it to take advantage of changes in the national and global economies. Additional funding of \$1.9 million in 2000-01 rising to \$2.6 million per annum from 2001-02 has been approved to meet the State's commitment to this national initiative. Funds will be provided directly to major companies based in New South Wales, recognised by the Inquiry as some of the most important companies in Australia.

To implement areas of the *Western Sydney Arts Strategy* additional funding of \$0.4 million per annum from 2000-01 rising to \$0.5 million per annum from 2002-03 has been provided. The majority will be directed to the Local Government Arts Incentive Fund, which forms the cornerstone of the Strategy. Funds will also go toward Artist Initiatives, the Indigenous Artists Forum, the Australian Network of Art and Technology (ANAT) summer school, relocation of arts organisations to Western Sydney, and the investigation of flexible work spaces.

Regional arts will be enhanced through the provision of an additional \$0.3 million per annum from 2000-01 rising to \$0.5 million per annum from 2002-03. Funds will go towards the further development of regional arts boards throughout New South Wales and the creation of a new board in the currently unserved far south coast. Funds will also be directed towards touring of youth oriented arts in regional New South Wales, development of Indigenous music and the creation of a museums advisory service throughout the State.

Regional touring will be enhanced through the provision of an additional \$0.25 million per annum for three years. These funds will allow companies in New South Wales, including Bell Shakespeare Company, to tour full-scale productions to venues outside of Sydney. An amount of \$0.32 million over two years has also been provided as additional assistance towards Carnivale, the State's multicultural arts festival.

Asset Acquisitions

Total asset acquisitions in 2000-01 are estimated at \$18.9 million. Budget support of \$9.2 million has been provided over three years, commencing 2000-01, for the purchase and fitout of premises currently leased at 91 Canal Road, Leichhardt as a storage and rehearsal facility for arts organisations.

Other capital works to be continued into 2000-01 include \$14.6 million towards the construction of a new theatre at Walsh Bay, \$0.6 million for the ongoing maintenance of Wharf 4/5 and maintenance works at Garry Owen House, Rozelle (\$0.3 million).

At the Sydney Opera House, enhancement of the 25-year Total Asset Maintenance (TAM) program to a new level of \$13 million per annum will ensure effective and timely maintenance of the building and site. This represents an increase of \$3.9 million in Budget support from that provided in 1999-2000.

STATE LIBRARY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

The State Library of New South Wales is the major public reference and research 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 contacting the Library by electronic or other means.

The Library maintains and ensures the security of the unique heritage Mitchell and Dixson collections of historical New South Wales and Australian resources. It also supports the network of public libraries throughout New South Wales by administering annual grants, providing policy advice and consultancies, backup reference services, loans and supply of documents and through management of NSW.net.

EXPENDITURE TRENDS AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Over the past five years total expenses have increased from \$50.9 million in 1995-1996 to an expected \$53.3 million in 1999-2000. This increase is primarily related to internal reforms within the Library, and general movements in salaries and operating costs affecting the public sector.

A Budget allocation of \$1.0 million was provided in 1999-2000 for NSW.net. It is anticipated that by June 2000, 80 councils and public libraries will be connected to the Internet - an increase of 17 from 1998-99. To date NSW.net has connected 32 public libraries and councils in regional New South Wales and nine in Western Sydney to on-line information and services.

In 1998-99 the Library valued its collection assets in accordance with Australian Accounting Standard AAS29 – “Financial Reporting by Government Departments”. This resulted in an increase of approximately \$2 billion in the value of non-current assets.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

In 1999-2000, the Library implemented the initial phase of its financial and service delivery reforms aimed at improving operational efficiencies, reducing costs and increasing access to the Library’s services via the Internet.

The Library continues to experience growing demand for services from both onsite and offsite clients, including participation in the global exchange of information via the Internet. Changes in the way in which clients seek information have seen increased demand for access to electronic resources. Among the strategies to improve client services is the management of NSW.net. This provides public libraries and local government with equitable Internet access and contributes to the Government’s online initiative, Connect.nsw.

The Library’s commitment to improving client service and to managing and preserving the documented cultural heritage of New South Wales. It does this by ongoing client research to ensure that Library services meet client needs, extending client reach and by providing a program of exhibitions and public programs that focus on the Library’s core collections.

2000-01 BUDGET

Total Expenses

Total expenses are estimated at \$53.7 million. The Library will implement the second and final phase of reform initiatives that commenced in 1999-2000, giving particular focus to Internet service delivery and the development of a research service based on the unique collections of the Mitchell and Dixson Libraries.

The Library will distribute \$19.7 million under the State's public library and subsidies grants program during 2000-01. The Government will provide further funding for public library grants and subsidies of \$2.3 million over the next three years, to progressively increase this allocation to public libraries by \$1 million per annum by 2002-03. These additional funds will be used to update public library collections and improve access to electronic resources.

Additional funding of \$7 million over the next three years for NSW.net will expand the network to public libraries in all local government areas in New South Wales and will facilitate the provision of high-speed Internet access to information and other online services by people throughout the State. It is anticipated that by June 2001, 140 councils and libraries will be connected to the Internet - an increase of 60 from 1999-2000.

Asset Acquisitions

Total asset acquisitions in 2000-01 are estimated at \$5.4 million. Budget support totalling \$3.9 million has been allocated over the next three years to continue a program of building upgrade works that commenced in 1999-2000.

An allocation of \$3.7 million has been provided for the acquisition of collection material including books, journals, pictures, maps, manuscripts, CD-ROMs, newspapers and electronic materials.

Work will continue on the programmed replacement of plant and equipment, including computer equipment with a minor works allocation of \$0.5 million.

AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM

The Museum is Australia's leading natural history museum. Its mission is to increase understanding, and influence public debate on, the natural environment, human societies and human interaction with the environment. Australian Museum activities take place at its main site at College Street Sydney, the Djamu Gallery at Customs House and throughout New South Wales through its Museum on the Road, Museum in a Box, Outreach and rural and regional support programs.

EXPENDITURE TRENDS AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Over the past five years total expenses have increased from \$22.7 million in 1995-1996 to an expected \$36.0 million in 1999-2000. The increase is attributable to activities that include the staging of public programs and exhibitions, undertaking scientific research and increased emphasis on commercial ventures that includes the Australian Museum Business Services.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

The Museum's continued focus in 2000-01 will be on implementing initiatives identified within its Corporate Strategic Plan. Within this framework, increasing attention will be turned to analysing and predicting impacts on the Australian environment and the means by which this information can be effectively communicated to the rural and industrial sectors. The Museum will actively develop research and development partnerships within the scientific, government and commercial sectors to better disseminate the information it gains through its research activities. Reaching a wider audience through outreach, rural and regional programs, and electronic media, will remain a significant pursuit. The presentation of Pacific rim cultures in innovative programs remains a key commitment of the Museum.

2000-01 BUDGET

Total Expenses

Total expenses for the Museum are budgeted at \$33.4 million. The Museum will continue to direct its resources to activities that include staging exhibitions, development of education programs, research and conservation work on the collection. Operating expenses in 2000-01 are anticipated to be less than the revised expenditures in 1999-2000, reflecting a phasing down of a range of initiatives that commenced in 1997-98. This reduction is in line with the initial project plan. Scientific research will be focussed through designated centres of excellence and new biodiversity projects, and the Museum will continue with implementing government policies in areas such as cultural development and natural history.

Major exhibitions planned for 2000-01 include: "Australia's Lost Kingdoms", "Wildscience" and "Landmarks". The College Street premises will also stage a program of visitor services and other exhibitions that include: "British Gas World Wildlife Photography" and "Tasmanian Tiger: the Mystery of the Thylacine".

The Djamu Gallery at Customs House will host a range of programs that focus on Aboriginal and Pacific Islander themes. These include exhibitions such as "Fishing: the Spirit House" and "The Power of Hair".

Asset Acquisitions

Total asset acquisitions in 2000-01 are estimated at \$3.8 million. Budget funding totalling \$0.95 million (\$0.75 million in 2000-01) has been allocated over two years for a program of new information technology initiatives that encompass an extension to the existing computer facility, as well as an upgrade of software, network cabling, Internet connections, and hardware equipment such as file servers.

Expenditures on a range of programs that commenced in 1997-98 have been supported as follows: information technology improvements (\$0.1 million), upgrade of air-conditioning (\$0.55 million) and public programs (\$0.45 million). Refurbishment of heritage and other buildings to meet the intent of the Building Code of Australia and to comply with occupational health and safety legislation will also continue during 2000-01 with a budget allocation of some \$2.0 million.

MUSEUM OF APPLIED ARTS AND SCIENCES

The Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences consists of the Powerhouse Museum and Sydney Observatory. The Museum's focus is on promoting 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 arts and social history.

EXPENDITURE TRENDS AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

The expenditures have decreased from \$41.8 million in 1995-96 to \$38.9 million in 1999-2000. This is primarily attributed to a higher level of depreciation expense in 1995-96 following the revaluation of the Museum's assets in June 1995. The Museum continues to direct its resources to activities that include the staging of major exhibitions, development of educational programs and undertaking research and conservation work on its collections.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

Preservation of the collection is of prime importance to the Museum, with reliable storage being an essential element in the management and preservation of the collection. An option to acquire a heritage building at Eveleigh railway yards is being considered in order to provide a reliable and secure storage facility and increase access to the collection by the public and researchers.

The continued renewal and upgrade of the permanent galleries is proceeding in order for the Museum to maintain its position in the education and leisure markets.

2000-01 BUDGET

Total Expenses

Total expenses for the Museum are budgeted at \$41.4 million. A number of exhibitions are planned for 2000-01. These include:

- ◆ Codex Leicester - the unique work by Leonardo da Vinci;
- ◆ “One thousand years of the Olympic Games: Treasures of Ancient Greece” - a collection of Greek antiquities on the Olympic theme; and
- ◆ “Earth, spirit, fire: Korean masterpieces of the Choson Dynasty” - a priceless collection of Korean ceramics.

The Museum will also feature strongly in the celebrations of the Centenary of Federation.

Asset Acquisitions

Total asset acquisitions in 2000-01 are estimated at \$4.5 million. The capital works program includes \$3.2 million for the collection storage and permanent gallery upgrade program. The storage facility is scheduled for completion in September 2000. The facility will provide an additional 3,000 square metres to store collections currently located at the Powerhouse Museum.

In 2000-01, the permanent gallery replacement program will include the refurbishment of the level 4 Wran Building area as a new permanent decorative arts and design gallery as well as a new sustainability gallery.

Work will continue on the programmed replacement of plant and equipment, and building improvements with the provision of a minor works allocation of \$1.3 million.

HISTORIC HOUSES TRUST OF NEW SOUTH WALES

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

EXPENDITURE TRENDS AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Expenditure has significantly increased over the past five years from \$11.6 million in 1995-96 to \$18.3 million in 1999-2000. The rise is attributable to the increased role and responsibilities of the Trust and the general movements in salaries and operating costs affecting the public sector.

In 2000 the Trust revised its Total Asset Management Plans which were developed in accordance with the Government's policy on heritage asset management. An additional \$10.0 million in recurrent and capital budget funding has been supported over eight years to eliminate the existing backlog of maintenance works to the Trusts properties.

In recent years, the Trust assumed control and management of two additional key heritage buildings, Government House in 1996 and the Mint in 1997. In May 1999, Rouse Hill estate commenced its full operation, with access to the historic estate limited to two days a week. It is anticipated that access will be progressively increased to 5 days a week, commencing 2004-05.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

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

2000-01 BUDGET

Total Expenses

Total expenses are estimated at \$19.2 million. The rise in expenditure from 1999-2000 is attributed to additional Budget funding to support a program of backlog maintenance works and meet the operating costs of Rouse Hill estate.

The Trust continues its policy of regional involvement and collaboration with regional museums including internships, advice, touring exhibitions, dissemination of information and the development of exhibitions that have rural themes.

The Trust is developing a number of major exhibitions including:

- ◆ “Sydney Harbour”, “Sydneyiders - Lorrie Graham Photography”; “Federation Sydney”; “Hawkesbury River Settlers”; and “The Russians are Coming” at the Museum of Sydney;
- ◆ Elizabeth Bay Estate; “Magical Golland and Lorenzi - Art Decorator at Elizabeth Bay House”; and
- ◆ “Hard Boiled! The Detective in Popular Culture” at Justice and Police Museum.

The Trust is also planning a busy program of activities including a concert series, lectures, seminars, theme events and courses.

Asset Acquisitions

Total asset acquisitions in 2000-01 are estimated at \$0.9 million. The major feature of the capital program is the provision of additional budget support of \$1.2 million over four years commencing 2000-01, for a program of building upgrade works. Together with the extra recurrent Budget support of \$8.8 million over eight years commencing 2000-01, the existing backlog of maintenance works to the Trusts properties will be addressed.

A Budget allocation of \$0.1 million has been provided to continue a program of capital works at the Rouse Hill estate, that commenced in 1997-98. The Trust’s capital program includes an allocation of \$0.2 million for the replacement and upgrade of computers, plant and equipment and acquisition of collections.

ART GALLERY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

The Art Gallery of New South Wales exhibits works of art from its own holdings, from pre-eminent international collections and other Australian sources. The Gallery also conducts both entertaining and educational public activities such as Aboriginal cultural performances, film screenings, lectures in art history, and free guided tours for school students and the public.

EXPENDITURE TRENDS AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Expenditure trends have not markedly varied over the past five years, apart from general movements in salaries and operating costs affecting the public sector. During 1999-2000, the 20th Century Australian Gallery was established with funding provided by private benefaction and the State Government.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

The Gallery's major strategic objectives are to develop and maintain a collection of works of art and to propagate and increase knowledge, appreciation, and access to this art collection. The Gallery also aims to develop its profile as a national centre for Asian Art.

2000-01 BUDGET

Total Expenses

Total expenses for the Gallery are budgeted at \$27.2 million. A number of major exhibitions are planned for 2000-01. These include:

- ◆ *Australian Icons*: presents Australia's great artists featuring works sourced from the Gallery's Collection.
- ◆ *Papunya Tula*: traces the evolution of the Western Desert contemporary Aboriginal art movement from its genesis in the early 1970s to international acclaim.
- ◆ *Dead Sea Scrolls*: a collaborative project, with the Israeli Antiquities Authority for July to October 2000.

The Gallery continues to develop its temporary exhibition program through to 2004 and is sourcing art works for these shows from its own collection and major international collections. Several individual exhibitions will be valued at more than \$200 million. This will provide the opportunity for visitors to view important works of art not otherwise available to the people of New South Wales.

Asset Acquisitions

Total asset acquisitions in 2000-01 are estimated at \$8.4 million. The major feature of the capital program is the provision of budget support of \$15.2 million over three years, commencing 2000-01, for the building extension and the collection digitisation program. The building extension program includes the development of an Asian gallery, relocation of the level 5 restaurant and an enlarged conservation studio and sculpture garden. The digitisation program will record works of art in a digitised or electronic format in order to support and increase ease of access to the art collection and research databases.

As part of the Gallery's mission to increase and improve the collection, funding of at least \$1.0 million from its own resources will be allocated to the acquisition of works of art.

Budget support totalling \$6.1 million has been allocated over the next four years to continue a program of building upgrade works that commenced in 1999-2000.

STATE RECORDS AUTHORITY

The State Records Authority of New South Wales (State Records) was established with the commencement of the *State Records Act 1998* on 1 January 1999, replacing the former Archives Authority of New South Wales and its operational arms. State Records' purpose is to ensure that the needs of people and government for records - as evidence of the business of the NSW public sector - are met now and in the future. State Records functions as a coordinating agency of Government, as a provider of services to the people and Government of New South Wales, and as the protector and preserver of the State's archives.

EXPENDITURE TRENDS AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Over the past five years, total expenses have increased from \$7.0 million in 1995-96 to an expected \$9.1 million in 1999-2000. This increase mainly reflects the increased business activities from the Government Records Repository in the area of records storage and retrieval.

The *State Records Act 1998* gives State Records significant new responsibilities, notably to regulate and improve records management across the NSW public sector, particularly in the environment of electronic business and service delivery. With the Act's coverage of local government, the universities and the public hospital system from 1 January 2000, State Records' jurisdiction has doubled.

The Act also provides improved protection for the State's archives, which will result in between 60 and 80 linear kilometres of archival records being transferred to State Records' custody in the period to 2010. A storage facility is expected to be completed by mid-2000, at a total estimated cost of \$5.9 million.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

In the next five years, State Records aims to complete all aspects of the implementation of the new State Records Act and to achieve measurable improvements in record keeping across the New South Wales public sector and in the accessibility and use of the State's archives throughout New South Wales. As key supporting strategies, State Records will continue to rationalise its accommodation for the archives, staff and specialised facilities, adopt better systems for the intellectual and physical control of the State's archives and implement new information systems for its business operations and electronic service delivery.

2000-01 BUDGET

Total Expenses

Total expenses for State Records are budgeted at \$9.2 million in 2000-01. During the year the Authority's resources will be applied to the provision of core archives and records management services, improvements in the standard of record keeping across Government, the identification, preservation and documentation of the State's archives and the progressive implementation of the State Records Act. Among specific initiatives, State Records will continue a program to provide improved access to key State archives through community access points around New South Wales and will undertake a thorough review of arrangements for keeping State archives of regional significance in their communities.

Asset Acquisitions

Total asset acquisitions in 2000-01 are estimated at \$4.3 million. A capital allocation of \$2.2 million has been made for two major works at the Western Sydney Records Centre at Kingswood. The construction of the "Stage V" building will be completed to provide suitable storage for the next ten years. Construction will continue on a new conservation laboratory at the Centre, along with accommodation for staff to be relocated from State Records' CBD site.

As part of a program to rationalise its accommodation, State Records will reduce its occupation of the rented State Archives Building in The Rocks. A budget allocation of \$0.5 million has been provided to complete the refurbishment works that commenced in 1999-2000 for the reduced city office. This will enable improved facilities for public use of the archives, exhibitions and training for public sector officers.

NEW SOUTH WALES FILM AND TELEVISION OFFICE

The New South Wales Film and Television Office promotes, encourages and facilitates film and television production, provides industry assistance and new media grants, invests in script development, offers a liaison service between filmmakers and property owners and co-ordinates and supervises the production of documentary and promotional films for government agencies.

EXPENDITURE TRENDS AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

The Film and Television Office has invested \$10.5 million in film and television productions since 1995-1996, resulting in \$164 million worth of production expenditure in New South Wales.

The \$5 million revolving Production Loan Fund has been instrumental in attracting production to New South Wales. The cash reserves within the fund have been fully committed to productions in the State. The fund is replenished as production loans are repaid.

The first eight rounds of the Young Filmmakers Fund have supported 49 productions, with a total investment of approximately \$1 million. The Fund continues to attract considerable interest and large numbers of applicants. An exciting "DIY-tv" initiative under the Young Filmmakers Fund was adopted in 1999. In the initial round an investment of \$0.1 million was made in two projects that screened on SBS in early 2000.

The New Media program consists of three elements: a digital visual effects traineeship in partnership with the private sector, a program of activity with Metro Screen, and some specific industry assistance activities.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

The promotion of employment, investment and export growth in the New South Wales film and television industry is a key priority of the Office, as is the commitment to quality, innovation and local identity.

Creative development is an important part of the Office's responsibilities and critical to the long-term viability of the industry. The Office encourages initiatives to assist the skills and experience of emerging and established talent in this regard.

To assist filmmakers shoot films outside of Sydney, a new Regional Film Fund has been established and will commence operating from January 2001.

2000-01 BUDGET

Total Expenses

Total expenses for the Office are budgeted at \$7.7 million. This will enable the Office to continue to occupy its integral place within the film and television industry through script development, pre-production and production support, screen culture grants, new media development programs and liaison with filmmakers and property owners.

An additional \$0.25 million has been provided to the Office. This will be used to increase funds for industry audience and development and to improve location access for national and international companies.

Asset Acquisitions

Total asset acquisitions in 2000-01 are estimated at \$0.045 million. This relates to minor works funding to improve and replace office equipment.

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 social, economic, public and cultural life of New South Wales.

In April 2000, the Government released the third *Ethnic Affairs Report*. The Report details the achievements and progress in implementing the *Building on Cultural Diversity Program* in New South Wales.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

The Government has taken a whole-of-government approach to ethnic affairs through its Ethnic Affairs Action Plan 2000. The Commission has the responsibility to provide leadership in the effective implementation of programs for a culturally diverse community, into the core business of all government agencies. The Commission's work focuses on three identified key result areas, namely social justice, community harmony and economic and cultural opportunities.

The Government has introduced legislation into Parliament to restructure the Commission into a Community Relations Commission. The existing leadership role of the Commission in the stated areas will continue and the Government proposes to further enhance its community relations role. A focus for the Commission in 2000-01 will be the extension of interpreter services into rural and regional New South Wales.

2000-01 BUDGET

Total Expenses

Total expenses by the Commission in 2000-01 are budgeted at \$12.3 million, which includes \$1.5 million for community outreach and grants, including funding assistance to projects that best support and benefit the culturally diverse communities of New South Wales. It gives consideration to projects that assist and encourage people of various backgrounds to participate and contribute to all aspects of life in New South Wales.

In 2000-01 the Commission's Community Partnership Scheme will continue to play an important part in addressing community needs. The Scheme provides funding for projects that the Commission identifies as priority areas, which can serve as best practice models in the future.

AUDIT OFFICE OF NEW SOUTH WALES

The New South Wales Auditor-General is responsible for audits and related services under the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983*, other New South Wales Acts and the Corporations Law. The Auditor-General forms part of the accountability mechanism whereby the Parliament holds the Government accountable for fulfilling its responsibilities. The Audit Office assists the Auditor-General in fulfilling this role.

The Audit Office's core businesses are:

- ◆ financial audits that provide an independent opinion (report) on the financial reports of government agencies;
- ◆ compliance reviews, that involve the examination of compliance with, laws and regulations and policy directives of central agencies;
- ◆ special audits (performance audits) that provide an independent report on selected government programs or activities in terms of their economy, efficiency, effectiveness and compliance with appropriate legislation; and
- ◆ advising Parliament and the Government on substantial matters identified during the audit process.

EXPENDITURE TRENDS AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Expenditure is estimated to increase slightly in 2000-01 to \$23.3 million. This is the result of inflationary trends, offset by productivity related savings that have reversed the trend of increasing salary related expenditures in the past few years. The introduction of management information systems is expected to enable the Office to contain its level of expenditure.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

The client base is regularly changing through departmental and portfolio restructuring, the establishment of Public Trading Enterprises and privatisation. The result has been a downward trend in the number and size of clients. However, there is an increasing demand for other work.

The Office is committed to providing appropriate training and opportunities to all staff. It is committed to the development of an integrated information management and technology framework. It is also committed to using audit methodologies that add value to clients and stakeholders, focus on client and business risk, are cost effective and meet the requirements of the quality standard AS/NZ ISO 9001:94 and Australian Auditing Standards.

2000-01 BUDGET

Total Expenses

The Office will spend \$23.3 million during the year, with expenditure on performance audits expected to total \$2.3 million.

Asset Acquisitions

Capital payments are estimated to decrease to \$75,000 in 2000-01. Capital requirements in the next few years are expected to be negligible as the Office continues to use the recently established operating lease facility to fund its computer requirements.

The majority of the \$75,000 will be spent completing replacement of the Office's practice management system.