

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

OVERVIEW

Agency	Forecast 1997-98	Estimate 1998-99	Variation
	\$m	\$m	%
Cabinet Office			
Total Expenses	11.0	12.6	14.8
Asset Acquisitions	0.1	...
Parliamentary Counsel's Office			
Total Expenses	4.8	5.3	11.6
Asset Acquisitions	0.4	...
Premier's Department			
Total Expenses	72.3	73.6	1.7
Asset Acquisitions	2.2	1.3	(-) 42.2
Independent Commission Against Corruption			
Total Expenses	14.5	14.8	2.0
Asset Acquisitions	0.3	0.2	(-) 18.4
Ombudsman's Office			
Total Expenses	6.3	6.7	6.7
Asset Acquisitions	0.1	...
State Electoral Office			
Total Expenses	9.1	34.9	283.6
Asset Acquisitions	0.2	0.2	...
Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal			
Total Expenses	5.0	4.9	(-) 1.1
Asset Acquisitions	0.1	...
Ministry for the Arts			
Total Expenses	57.7	57.3	(-) 0.7
Asset Acquisitions	3.4	9.6	182.4
State Library			
Total Expenses	52.1	55.2	6.0
Asset Acquisitions	1.8	1.9	5.6
Australian Museum			
Total Expenses	23.1	23.1	...
Asset Acquisitions	5.2	8.5	63.5
Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences			
Total Expenses	40.5	38.5	(-) 4.9
Asset Acquisitions	1.7	3.8	123.5
Historic Houses Trust			
Total Expenses	15.4	16.9	9.7
Asset Acquisitions	0.5	0.4	(-) 20.0
Art Gallery of New South Wales			
Total Expenses	24.3	26.7	9.9
Asset Acquisitions	4.9	2.1	(-) 57.1
Archives Authority of New South Wales			
Total Expenses	8.3	8.5	2.4
Asset Acquisitions	3.9	4.9	25.6
New South Wales Film and Television Office			
Total Expenses	8.0	7.6	(-) 5.0
Asset Acquisitions	0.1	0.05	(-) 50.0

Agency	Forecast 1997-98	Estimate 1998-99	Variation	
	\$m	\$m		%
Ethnic Affairs Commission				
Total Expenses	12.6	12.4	(-)	1.6
Asset Acquisitions	0.2	0.2		...
Audit Office of New South Wales				
Total Expenses	22.7	22.6	(-)	0.6
Asset Acquisitions	1.1	0.6	(-)	41.7
Total, Premier, Minister for the Arts and Minister for Ethnic Affairs				
Total Expenses	387.9	421.8		8.7
Asset Acquisitions	25.6	34.5		34.8

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 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

Over the last 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 were 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 which reports to the Premier.

1998-99 Budget

The Cabinet Office has estimated total expenses of \$12.6 million. This includes \$1.1 million for systems development associated with the Families First initiative developed by the Office of Children and Young People and will involve co-ordinating the establishment of a network of child care experts and volunteers to assist with parenting skills.

PARLIAMENTARY COUNSEL'S OFFICE

The Parliamentary Counsel's Office drafts and develops 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.

1998-99 Budget

Total expenses of the Parliamentary Counsel's Office are estimated to be \$5.3 million with about 80 per cent being allocated to employee related payments. Revenue from the sale of printed legislation and associated services is not expected to vary significantly from previous years.

The capital allocation of \$400,000 (\$1.5 million over 3 years) is for the first stage of a major program to replace the existing Legislative Drafting, Publishing and Database System. This will streamline and enhance legislative drafting and publishing processes and facilitate the electronic dissemination of legislation using new technology such as Internet.

PREMIER'S DEPARTMENT

Expenditure Trends and Recent Developments

Corporate Services Reform Unit

The Department provides major employee related support to implement the Government's Corporate Services Reform initiative, augmented by staff seconded on a fully funded basis from other agencies. The Unit continues to provide essential leadership and co-ordination to achieve savings across government in corporate services.

Miscellaneous Grants Fund

Natural disasters e.g. the Thredbo landslide and bushfire assistance, and initiatives such as the Tall Ships and the Whitbread Round the World Race Stopover, extend normal commitments beyond that which the Fund generally experiences. Specifically, the Department provided \$2 million in 1997-98 to the University of Wollongong Science Centre, and a \$5 million contribution is being provided to St Mary's Cathedral towards the costs of construction and completion of the Cathedral's two stone spires.

It is essential that the Government continues to quickly respond to increasing community need, particularly natural disasters and bushfires.

Office of Information Technology

The transfer of this Office from the Department of Public Works and Services embraces the development and promulgation of whole of government strategies and policies for the more effective management and use of information and technology across the public sector.

The Office will achieve improvements and cost savings in government information and technology resources, including assisting the government sector to achieve Year 2000 compliance.

Other Matters

Following the appointment of the Minister for Regional Development and Minister for Rural Affairs, associated staff and operating costs are met by this Department.

Strategic Directions

The Department supports the Premier as the head of government in co-ordinating services to enhance the social and business environment of the people of New South Wales.

The services provided will have particular regard to -

- whole of government co-ordination of major business, investment infrastructure and community proposals;
- improving the management of public sector resources to achieve greater equity, efficiency and effectiveness; and
- sector wide improved management and use of information and technology.

The Department has continued to address the concerns of regional communities and to improve government service delivery in small rural towns under the Cabinet approved Government Access Program.

Additionally, the transfer of the Rural Communities Consultative Council and the Office of Rural Communities to the Department provides the best opportunity for government and the community to advance social, economic and environmental interests to ensure that regional New South Wales has a blueprint for the future.

1998-99 Budget

Total expenses are estimated at \$74 million.

Strategic and Regional Projects

Total expenses are estimated at \$7 million.

The Department will continue to undertake, on the Premier's behalf, the management of a range of special projects, such as the proposed private infrastructure development of Kooragang Island in the Newcastle Port, the continuing development of the Government Access Centres now operating in the North Coast and Western Regions, and facilitate final arrangements in regard to a major paper mill at Tumut.

Public Sector Reform

Total expenses are estimated at \$10.5 million.

An important part of the Department's operation in 1998-99 will be the further development and implementation of a public sector management reform agenda that ensures that the NSW public sector is structured and capable of meeting present and future community expectations.

To achieve this the Department will continue to meet executive and management development needs involving the conduct of a series of management development programs including the Public Sector Management course. The reform process will include the development of a broad public sector pay policy, the formulation of employee relations policies, strategies and practices, the monitoring of sector wide industrial issues, and the co-ordination of redeployment of displaced staff.

Administration Services

Total expenses are estimated at \$18 million.

The management and co-ordination of services for the Premier in community events, official visits and executive and departmental administration continues to be of importance, especially with the approach of the Olympics and the Centenary of Federation.

Departmental staff will play a pivotal role in the management of those community projects of direct concern to the Premier, and provide strategic advice and services on corporate planning and the co-ordination of State responses in times of crisis.

Staff will also be involved in logistical and management aspects of the Governor's constitutional, ceremonial and community roles, the operation of the Executive Council, liaison with the Historic Houses on activities at Government House, and the provision of actuarial services.

Ministerial Services

Total expenses are estimated at \$15 million.

The Department throughout 1998-99 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 Office holders' staff. Advice is provided on administration issues including finance, audit, employment, industrial relations and parliamentary entitlements.

Funding provided includes \$5.3 million to cover the transfer of the Office of Rural Communities and the Office of Information Technology, and the development of whole of government Internet Strategy.

Asset Acquisitions

The Department's allocation is \$1.3 million.

The Government Information Management Board endorsed the upgrading of the existing Protocol Management System to enhance its capacity and reliability to respond to significantly increased demands in preparation for the Olympics and associated events. The upgrade is estimated to cost \$125,000.

The allocated funds are also required for enhancement of management information within the GMT network and for replacement of plant and equipment. The allocation also includes requirements of the Office of Information Technology.

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.

Strategic Directions

In 1997-98 the Commission undertook various major investigations including Transgrid and its association with various private companies, corruption affecting New South Wales prisons and Parliamentary travel allowances. The Commission tabled reports in Parliament on its investigation into local councils, investigations involving Parliamentarians, the Department of Gaming and Racing, Transgrid and various segments of the Corrective Services investigation.

During the year the Commission worked closely with various agencies on large infrastructure projects including the Olympics. The project looking at ways of preventing corruption in Aboriginal Land Councils culminated in the release of a corruption prevention and research report, and the findings of this investigation will be tabled in Parliament early in 1998-99.

In 1997-98 the Commission also undertook significant work throughout New South Wales on ethics training and protected disclosures responsibilities. Further work was undertaken on enhancing existing secondary school material, and the Commission launched its internet site during 1997-98.

In 1998-99 the Commission will maintain its focus on 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.

1998-99 Budget

Total Expenses

An amount of \$14.8 million will be spent by the Commission in 1998-99 on staffing and operational costs.

Asset Acquisitions

In 1998-99, \$240,000 will be spent on the ongoing plant and equipment needs of the Commission.

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 fairly, reasonably and with integrity. It also monitors the use of telecommunication interception activities by agencies authorised to do so.

The major functions of the Ombudsman's Office are as follows -

- Administrative Review;
- Police complaints oversight;
- Freedom of Information (FOI) review;
- Protected Disclosures ("whistle blowers") advice;
- Witness Protection appeals;
- Telecommunications interception audit; and
- Controlled operations audit.

Expenditure Trends and Recent Developments

The expenditure of the Ombudsman has been increased over the last three years as a result of Government policy to expand the role of the Office. This has included additional staff to handle and investigate police complaints. The Ombudsman is constantly endeavouring to improve efficiency in the Office to maximise the resources available for core business activities.

Strategic Directions

To focus the work of the office, the Ombudsman has identified a number of new priorities for the 1998-99 financial year. These include -

- Development of new guidelines, including guidelines on dealing with difficult complainants;
- Active participation in, and evaluation of, the development and implementation of new Police Service complaint handling procedures; and
- Participation in the project evaluating the Police Service implementation of its Aboriginal strategic plan.

1998-99 Budget

Total Expenses

The estimated expenditure of the Ombudsman's Office in 1998-99 of \$6.7 million will enable the Office to continue providing a valuable public function. After a two-year trial period, the Government has acknowledged the success of the Youth Officer, first funded in the 1996-97 Budget, in developing and implementing programs to improve access to and awareness of the Ombudsman's Office amongst young people. Funding for this position has been made permanent.

Asset Acquisitions

An amount of \$121,000 has been allocated to the Ombudsman's Office in 1998-99 for asset acquisitions. Of this, \$88,000 will be used to meet the objectives of the Office's IT strategic plan, with \$33,000 to be used for fit out modifications.

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 which was 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 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.

The last election for the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council was held on 25 March 1995.

In 1993 the Political Education Fund was established and this has had a significant effect on the Office's total expenditure since its introduction. Projected expenditure in 1997-98 is \$1.2 million and \$1.4 million has been allocated in 1998-99. In 1997-98 the Office has focussed on preliminary preparations for the conduct of the next General Election to be held on 27 March 1999.

The required redistribution of electoral boundaries commenced in November 1997 and funds originally allocated in 1996-97 were carried forward to 1997-98 for this purpose. It is anticipated that the Electoral Districts Commissioners will finalise the redistribution by mid-1998 and while the majority of expenditure will be met in 1997-98, some costs may be carried forward to 1998-99.

Strategic Directions

To assist in the production of results for the Legislative Council, the Office is developing a system which will enable electronic counting of an anticipated four million ballot papers with the objective of producing an earlier result than has been the case in the past. It is also expected that this will lead to reduced costs in respect of this activity.

The Office is also pursuing improvements in performance of the administration of elections by Returning Officers through the computerisation of aspects of their office activities. These particular improvements should benefit parties, candidates and electors.

1998-99 Budget

Total Expenses

The primary influence on expenditure by this Office during 1998-99 will be the conduct of the 1999 State General Election.

As a result of the General Election, the Office will, through the Election Funding Authority, incur a significant increase in payments to candidates, groups and parties for election campaigns.

Accordingly an amount of \$34.9 million has been provided to the State Electoral Office in 1998-99, a 283.6 percent increase on 1997-98.

Payments to the Commonwealth under the Joint Roll Agreement (\$2.8 million in 1998-99), which has been agreed to by all States, will continue to be met and this is a significant aspect of the Office's budget.

Asset Acquisitions

The Office has embarked on a program for the development and maintenance of its computerised facilities including both hardware and software.

These facilities relate to both the administration and conduct of elections and include such matters as the development of the Legislative Council program and the Office's State Election Management System.

INDEPENDENT PRICING AND REGULATORY TRIBUNAL

The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal's main role is to set maximum prices, and review pricing of monopoly services provided by NSW electricity, public transport, water supply and related service agencies.

The role of the Tribunal was extended in 1996 to cover regulation of natural gas networks, general reviews relating to pricing, industry or competition within markets, registration of third party access agreements and providing arbitration for disputes about such agreements.

The Tribunal's total expenses in 1998-99 are estimated at \$4.9 million. The capital program of \$75,000 is mainly for acquisition and upgrading of the Tribunal's technology equipment.

MINISTRY FOR THE ARTS

Expenditure Trends and Recent Developments

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

In 1997-98 the Ministry assisted 385 organisations through the distribution of around \$15.2 million under the Cultural Grants Program. The Ministry also developed two new policy documents: "The arts and cultural diversity: Principles for multicultural arts support in New South Wales" and "Principles for regional programs by State Government cultural institutions" (in association with the New South Wales Arts Advisory Council).

During the year, accommodation in Ministry properties was arranged for 13 organisations, bringing to 31 the total number of lease arrangements between the Ministry and arts organisations. Refurbishment work continued at Pier 4/5 Walsh Bay, the Gunnery at Woolloomooloo, Garry Owen House at Rozelle, the former Earth Exchange Museum building and the Young Street Terraces.

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.

1998-99 Budget

Total Expenses

From July the Ministry takes over from the Ethnic Affairs Commission as the agency responsible for administration of the annual grant to Carnivale, the State's multicultural arts festival. As part of this renewed commitment, the base grant will be increased by \$55,000 to \$555,000 from 1998-99.

An additional \$525,000 has been provided towards the Cultural Grants Program for 1998-99. Organisations to be assisted will include the Sydney Writers' Festival, the Newcastle Regional Museum, the Centre for Contemporary Craft and Carnivale. Funds will also be used to meet the State's commitment towards the return of Indigenous cultural property, in accordance with the decision of the Cultural Ministers' Council.

Another major new initiative is the establishment of a regional cultural facilities upgrade program (\$1 million in 1998-99). This program will see State and Local Government co-operating in the renovation and upgrading of key cultural facilities in regional areas.

Asset Acquisitions

Over the next three years, the Ministry will invest \$25.9 million, including \$8.7 million in 1998-99, in the establishment of a cultural precinct in Walsh Bay valued at over \$80 million. This will include construction of a new 1,000-seat theatre, accommodation for the Archives Authority of NSW, new accommodation facilities for four arts organisations and the refurbishment of Pier 2/3. Once completed, Pier 2/3 is expected to include spaces for major exhibitions, conventions, seminars, rehearsals and accommodation for arts organisations.

The Sydney Opera House will be provided with capital funds totalling \$14.9 million in 1998-99, primarily for the continuation of the upgrade program (almost \$6.0 million) and for maintenance in accordance with the Total Asset Maintenance program (\$7.7 million).

Other works scheduled for 1998-99 include structural repairs at Pier 4/5 Walsh Bay (\$380,000) and maintenance at Garry Owen House, Rozelle (\$340,000).

STATE LIBRARY

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 also maintains and ensures the security of the unique heritage Mitchell and Dixson collections of Australian and New South Wales resources.

The State Library supports the network of public libraries throughout the State through a program of grants and subsidies and by providing policy advice, consultancies, backup reference services, loans and supply of documents.

Expenditure Trends and Recent Developments

The State Library continues to experience growing demand for services from clients visiting the Library and those contacting the Library by mail, telephone, fax, e-mail, the Internet or through other libraries. Client demand is also increasing for access to electronic resources. The Library's strategies to improve client access include -

- a web-based interface to the CD-ROM network and a greater range of titles;
- continued updating of the State Library's Internet site in line with State Government electronic service delivery policy, including easy access to the Library's catalogue, on-line bookings for the Library's courses and links to other websites; and

- co-ordination of *NSW.net*, which provides public libraries and local government with equitable Internet access and contributes to the State Government's on-line vision *connect.nsw*. The network, which was launched in March 1997, will continue to roll out to regional areas across the State.

Strategic Directions

The State Library's mission is to inspire, educate, inform and entertain by providing quality library and information programs to support the cultural, research and educational needs of clients.

The Library's commitment to continually improve client service and the management and preservation of the documented cultural heritage of New South Wales, using total quality and best practice principles, includes -

- a Library-wide quality review to extend client reach, increase client satisfaction and ensure cost effectiveness of services;
- an oral history strategy to record the stories of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and an ongoing commitment to Indigenous research through the INFOKOORI database; and
- exhibitions and public programs that bring the State Library's vast and unique collections to the community in an informative and enjoyable way.

1998-99 Budget

Total Expenses

The Budget provides for grants and subsidies to local public libraries totalling \$16.67 million. The grants and subsidies program is administered by the State Library on behalf of the Library Council of New South Wales.

The Budget also provides \$3.946 million to purchase resources for the State Library's collection, including books, journals, pictures, maps, manuscripts, CD-ROMs and other print and electronic materials.

Asset Acquisitions

The State Library's capital program includes \$1.357 million for the replacement of the existing computer system. Implementation of the new system has begun and should be available to the public by 1999.

An amount of \$500,000 has also been provided for ongoing plant and equipment replacement.

AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM

Expenditure Trends and Recent Developments

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

Strategic Directions

The major focus for 1998-99 will be the implementation of initiatives under the Museum's new corporate strategic plan. The strategies comprising the plan have been developed to focus on meeting customer needs through better products and services. Principally the Museum will work towards extending its reach to new audiences through innovative and user responsive approaches to service provision, extending the influence of its research, and raising awareness of the Museum and its role in communicating and influencing debate.

1998-99 Budget

Total Expenses

The Museum will continue to focus on its core objectives of increasing understanding and influencing public debate in relation to the natural environment, human societies and their interaction with the environment. The corporate strategic plan has four key objectives - Access, The Physical Experience, Virtual Access and Science 2020 - which will be reflected in the programs developed for initiation in 1998-99.

In addition, scientific research activities will be channelled into key areas such as biodiversity research. A continuing emphasis on the portrayal of Indigenous issues and cultural material will be supported, as will the Museum's active and successful Community Access Program.

Asset Acquisitions

The Museum's 1998-99 capital program provides for the following expenditures - public programs (\$4.0 million), biodiversity research (\$1 million), air conditioning (\$1 million), information technology (\$1.2 million) and essential building maintenance focussing on safety and occupational health issues (\$0.8 million). An amount of \$0.4 million has also been provided for ongoing plant and equipment replacement.

Expenditure on public programs over four years (commencing 1997-98) will enable the Museum to develop innovative, exciting and educational exhibitions. Completion of the major new biodiversity gallery will be a highlight of the public program for 1998-99.

Other major exhibitions during the period will include *Life and Death under the Pharaohs* and *Terrorsaurus*, in addition to *Indigenous Australians*, the Museum's award winning permanent gallery. The Museum's ongoing commitment to making its products accessible throughout New South Wales will be continued through the development of an additional Museum on the Road exhibition based on *Indigenous Australians*.

The air-conditioning program and occupational health and safety refurbishment, which are being funded over four years commencing 1997-98, will improve public comfort and address a number of outstanding building and safety issues.

MUSEUM OF APPLIED ARTS AND SCIENCES

Expenditure Trends and Recent Developments

The Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences includes the Powerhouse Museum and the Sydney Observatory. The Museum is active in the consolidation and maintenance of Museum sites, assets, plant and equipment, accessions to and preservation of the collection and the development of informative exhibitions. Development of the imaging system continues and the replacement of some of the permanent galleries which have been in place since 1988 has commenced.

Strategic Directions

The Museum is undergoing a review of its corporate identity to maintain its position in the education and leisure markets. Aspects being addressed include corporate image, access to the premises and to the collection, involvement in statewide programs to bring the Museum to the rural community and improvement of the working environment and the level of service to visitors.

1998-99 Budget

Total Expenses

A number of major exhibitions are scheduled for 1998-99. These include -

- Imperial Austria: Treasures of Art, Arms and Armour;
- Beyond Architecture: The story of the life and work of Marion Mahony and Walter Burley Griffin;
- Precious Legacy: Treasures from the Jewish Museum of Prague; and
- Cars and Culture: An investigation and celebration of the motor car in Australia.

Asset Acquisitions

Collection storage is being addressed with the allocation in 1998-99 of \$500,000 to develop new museum specific storage facilities at the Castle Hill premises. The project will extend over three financial years at a total cost of \$3 million.

The Museum is entering the fourth year of a five-year program to establish a system of digitised images of the collection. An amount of \$744,000 has been allocated for this program in 1998-99. The system will increase efficiency across the Museum's core activities and minimise physical handling of items while still allowing public access.

The replacement of the permanent galleries will gain impetus with the allocation of \$1.525 million in 1998-99 to supplement the initial \$200,000 allocated in 1997-98. The project will extend over four years at a total cost of \$4.8 million.

In addition, an allocation of \$1 million will cover asset replacement, minor capital works projects and information technology related system replacement needed to overcome Year 2000 compliance problems.

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, their surrounds and collections, and to provide a range of public and school programs to increase awareness of the cultural heritage of the State.

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.

1998-99 Budget

Total Expenses

Increased funding of \$647,000 per annum has been allocated to the Trust on a recurrent basis for additional positions within the information technology, corporate services, marketing, tourism and venue hire areas and at the Museum of Sydney.

The Trust has finalised its Total Asset Management Plans, which have been developed in accordance with the Government's policy on heritage asset management. An amount of \$1.164 million has been included in the Trust's recurrent allocation for this purpose, along with \$400,000 for ongoing routine maintenance works at the Trust's various properties.

The Trust has developed a policy on regional involvement that is resulting in various collaborations with regional museums including internships, advice, touring exhibitions, dissemination of information and the development of exhibitions which have rural themes.

The Trust is also developing a number of major exhibitions including the following -

- Charles Goldie paintings, Macleay collections, Baudin expedition and The Australian Flag (Museum of Sydney);
- Bush Lives-Bush Futures, and Convicts (Hyde Park Barracks Museum);
- Quilts (Elizabeth Bay House); and
- Tattoo (Justice and Police Museum).

The Trust is also planning an extensive program of public events including a repeat of Sydney Open – an open day for the public to explore the cultural, and architectural heritage of many rarely seen commercial, government, residential and other properties in Sydney.

Asset Acquisitions

Rouse Hill House, located in Sydney's North-West, provides a rich source of evidence of Australian life from 1813 to the present day. Funding for development of the House museum and the associated Interpretation Centre is continuing with \$591,000 allocated in 1998-99 (\$200,000 for asset improvements and \$391,000 for maintenance).

Following its opening to the public later this year, access to the House will be progressively increased over the next three years, with a range of educational programs and exhibitions that explore important issues from the early history of Western Sydney to the present day.

Also included in the Trust's capital program is an allocation of \$220,000 for the replacement and upgrade of computers, plant and equipment and collection acquisitions.

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 important international collections and other Australian and overseas sources. It conducts free guided tours for school groups and the public, presents lectures, screens art-related films and provides an advisory service.

Strategic Directions

The Art Gallery's major strategic objectives are to develop and maintain a collection of works of art and to propagate and increase knowledge and appreciation of art. The Gallery also aims to increase public programs and joint exhibitions in regional areas and develop its profile as a national centre for Asian art.

1998-99 Budget

Total Expenses

A number of major exhibitions are planned for 1998-99. These include -

- Cezanne;
- Whistler;
- Jeffrey Smart;
- Art Express; and
- Archibald, Wynne and Sulman.

The Gallery is currently developing its exhibition program through to the year 2002. 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

The third and final year allocation of \$658,000 has been provided to complete the major replacement of building services, ensuring the safe housing of the Gallery's collection and loan objects.

As part of the Gallery's capital program, \$1 million from the Gallery's own resources will be utilised to fund the acquisition of works of art as they become available. An amount of \$400,000 has also been provided for ongoing plant and equipment replacement.

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, the Government Records Repository and the Records Management Office. It serves the Government and the people of New South Wales by improving the management, quality and accessibility of State records.

The Authority is concerned with all aspects of record-keeping and acts as a coordinating agency, a provider of services and a cultural institution. In addition, the Government Records Repository provides centralised cost effective repository facilities for the storage and retrieval of semi-active records of public offices.

The Authority has developed innovative legislation to establish and monitor record-keeping standards and codes of best practice across the NSW public sector. The Authority is taking a leading role in the management of electronic records and the development of standards and guidelines.

Strategic Directions

The Authority's priorities are: the introduction and implementation of the new State Records legislation; the encouragement of effective record keeping throughout the NSW public sector; the rationalisation of accommodation needs through a program of relocation, refurbishment and new construction; the documentation, management and control of the State archives through an integrated automated control system; the introduction of technology to improve access and work processes; and increased community support and awareness of the functions and services of the Authority.

1998-99 Budget

Total Expenses

The 1998-99 year will see a re-allocation of resources within the Authority as costs associated with the implementation of new legislation and the development of record-keeping standards arise. Other expenditure priorities include implementation of policy directions for electronic record keeping, improving community access and enhancing the Authority's regional profile through increased electronic access to services.

Asset Acquisitions

Consistent with the Authority's strategic direction, capital expenditure amounting to \$4.6 million will be undertaken in 1998-99, primarily to meet increased storage demands for the Government's permanent and semi-active records.

A project to upgrade and refurbish the Kingswood facilities and relocate some of the personnel and functions from the city office to Kingswood will commence in 1998-99. An amount of \$500,000 will be expended and the project will cost \$2 million over a two year period.

Major works in progress include the staged construction of an air-conditioned storage building at Kingswood (Stage V) by State Archives (\$2.6 million) and the provision of shelving (\$1.5 million) at the Government Records Repository facility (Stage IV).

Minor works capital funding amounting to \$345,000 has also been provided for building works at Kingswood (\$240,000) and for the replacement and upgrade of plant and equipment (\$105,000).

NEW SOUTH WALES FILM AND TELEVISION OFFICE

Expenditure Trends and Recent Developments

The New South Wales Film and Television Office (FTO) promotes, encourages and facilitates film and television production, invests in script development, provides screen culture and new media grants, offers a liaison service between filmmakers and property owners and provides executive producer services for documentary and promotional films for Government agencies.

Since the 1995-96 increase in production investment assistance, \$6.29 million has been invested in film and television productions, which has resulted in \$90 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 utilised to “cashflow” productions in the State.

The first three rounds of the Young Filmmakers Fund have supported 35 productions. The Fund continues to attract considerable interest and large numbers of applicants. The Creative Initiatives Fellowships were established in 1998 and are intended to enhance career paths and provide developmental opportunities not otherwise available.

The recently established new media policy will further develop projects that strategically benefit the NSW industry.

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 a critical issue for the long term viability of the industry and is an important part of the Office’s responsibilities. The Office encourages initiatives to assist the skills and experience of emerging and established talent.

1998-99 Budget

Total Expenses

An allocation of \$4.8 million 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.

Asset Acquisitions

The Office has been allocated \$45,000 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 1998 the Government released the first *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 the Plan. It will continue to pursue the integration of ethnic affairs issues into the core business of all government agencies focusing on the three identified Key Result Areas namely Social Justice, Community Harmony and Economic and Cultural Opportunities.

During the 1997-98 year, the Commission introduced more comprehensive guidelines for the provision of free interpreting services to Community Legal Centres. Free services were expanded to include preliminary interviews and matters where jurisdictions overlap State and Commonwealth boundaries.

1998-99 Budget

Total Expenses

Total expenses by the Commission in 1998-99 are budgeted at \$12.4 million. This sum includes an amount of \$1.5 million to ensure an effective and targeted community grants program. Funding responsibility for Carnivale Ltd has been transferred to the Ministry for the Arts.

In 1998-99 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 believes are of high priority and which can serve as best practice models in the future.

Asset Acquisitions

The Commission has been allocated \$225,000 for the upgrade of computer hardware and the purchase of various applications, in accordance with its Information Technology Plan.

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 legislative requirements that have an impact on their financial statements;
- 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

Total expenses are estimated to decrease slightly in 1998-99. This is the result of a decision by the Office to target an overall cut of 8 per cent from its salary related expenditures in each of 1998-99 and 1999-00 that will be largely offset by one-time expenditure for staff changes. Additionally, provision is being made for the replacement of the existing practice management and office management computer software. The introduction of new audit methodology during 1998-99 is expected to contribute to overall efficiency gains in future years.

A minor decrease in revenue expected in 1998-99 is attributable to the loss of the audit of TAB, an entity that will be privatised.

Strategic Directions

The Audit Office will continue to pursue improvements to the State's accountability regime. A recommendation has been made by Treasury to provide a legislative mandate to audit the compilation of publicly reported agency performance indicator and shareholder value added information.

The client base is regularly changing through administrative restructuring, the establishment of Government Trading Enterprises and privatisation (e.g. TAB). There is a downward trend in the number of clients. This generally has the effect of reducing effort in financial audits. However, there is an increasing demand for work in the performance audit area.

To meet the foregoing challenges, the Office will provide 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.

1998-99 Budget

Total Expenses

An amount of \$22.6 million will be spent by the Office during the year for audits and report preparation.

Of the \$21.5 million to be received by the Office, \$20.0 million represents fees charged and \$1.5 million is to be received from Treasury for the Auditor-General's reports to Parliament and the contract of performance audits.

Asset Acquisitions

The majority of the \$0.6 million capital expenditure will be spent replacing existing computer equipment.