

## CHAIR'S FOREWORD

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As Chair of the Public Accounts and Estimates Committee, I have pleasure in introducing the Committee's Part Three report on the 2008-09 Budget Estimates.

This report completes the Committee's exhaustive inquiry into the 2008-09 Budget Estimates. In contrast to Parts One and Two, which essentially provided an index to the matters raised at the budget estimates hearings that took place in May 2008, Part Three contains the Committee's high level analysis of certain substantive issues of clear economic, social and environmental relevance to the Parliament and community.

New features of the report include a greater focus on the following topics:

- department income and revenue initiatives; and
- revenue foregone - concessions and subsidies.

I regard the recommendations propounded in this report (49 in total) as vital for spearheading improvements in financial and resource management and strengthening accountability in the public sector. Accordingly, in the pursuit of continuous improvement and excellence in Government reporting to Parliament, the Committee has a clear expectation that the recommendations framed by the Committee, will be implemented by the Government. In this regard, the Committee takes note from its Budget briefing this year that comments made by the Committee were taken seriously by the Department of Treasury and Finance.

Over the past two state budgets, the Committee, in its drive for implementing an innovative new framework for examining and reporting on the budget estimates by linking its inquiries to the key visions and policies of the government, has endeavoured to continue and build on this approach.

I recommend that this report be considered by key stakeholders as well as other parliamentary jurisdictions and welcome any feedback on how the estimates process and report content could be further enhanced in future. To facilitate this process, the Committee's secretariat has created a suggestion facility on the Committee's website.

In conclusion, I wish to especially thank the Deputy Chair, Kim Wells MP as well as the other members of the Committee for their invaluable input into reviewing the 2008-09 Budget Estimates and finalising this report. In addition, the preparatory work undertaken by the Premier, Ministers, departmental Secretaries and senior managers as part of the budget estimates hearings and questionnaires process and their continued cooperation in dealing with the Committee's secretariat are also greatly appreciated.

And finally, on behalf of the Committee, as always, I extend my thanks to the professional dedication and admirable enthusiasm of the secretariat of the Committee, in embracing change and breaking new ground in research areas for this expanded report.



Bob Stensholt MP

Chair