

MINORITY REPORT

Minority Report by Opposition Members

Kim Wells, MP

Gordon Rich-Phillips, MLC

Richard Dalla-Riva, MLC

Pursuant to section 34 (2) of the Parliamentary Committees Act 2003

We:

Kim Wells, MP

Gordon Rich-Phillips, MLC

Richard Dalla-Riva, MLC

Submit this minority report:

Minority Report of Certain Members of the Public Accounts & Estimates Committee

The undersigned members of the Public Accounts & Estimates Committee (the Committee) oppose the adoption of the *Report on the Budget Estimates 2007-08* due to its lack of analysis, consideration, findings, and recommendations.

The *Parliamentary Committees Act 2003* (the Act) requires the Committee to inquire into, consider and report to Parliament on the annual estimates or receipts and payments and other Budget Papers, and any supplementary estimates of receipts and payments presented to the Assembly and the Council.¹

Over the last fifteen years, the Committee has earned an international reputation for the quality of its work with respect to the Budget Estimates. In the past the Committee has undertaken thorough investigation and analysis of the Budget Estimates, culminating in the production of an Estimates Report containing numerous key findings and recommendations.

In the last six Estimates Reports for the years 2001/02 to 2006/07 the Committee made 716 recommendations to government, the majority of which were accepted.

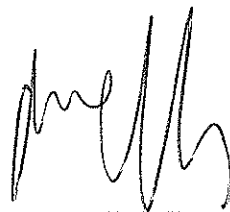
This latest report of the Committee contains no analysis whatsoever, no key findings and no recommendations.

The report is inconsistent with the previous work of the Committee and fails to add any value for Members of Parliament in their consideration of the Budget Estimates.

Following adverse findings and criticisms of the Bracks Government by the Committee in previous reports, we are concerned that this report is an attempt by the government majority on the Committee to minimise scrutiny of the government by presenting to Parliament a report which is devoid of critical analysis and recommendations.

This undermines the work of the Committee, and the mechanisms put in place to hold the government to account.

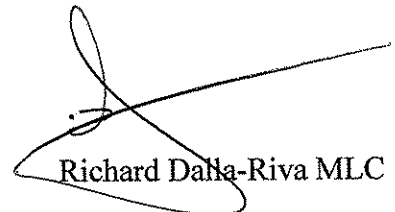
We call on the government members of the Committee to restore the traditional analytical format to the Estimates Report, and in doing so restore proper scrutiny of the government.



Kim Wells MP
Shadow Treasurer



Gordon Rich-Phillips MLC
Shadow Minister for Finance



Richard Dalla-Riva MLC

¹ S.14, Parliamentary Committees Act 2003