

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL 1999

EXPLANATORY NOTES

GENERAL OUTLINE

Policy Objectives of the Bill

This Bill provides for:

- appropriation for 1999-2000 for the services of the Legislative Assembly and the Parliamentary Service in that year;
- supplementary appropriation for 1998-99 to provide for unforeseen expenses of the Legislative Assembly and the Parliamentary Service that occurred in that financial year, authorised by the Governor in Council under section 25 of the *Financial Administration and Audit Act 1977* pending supplementary appropriation by the Legislative Assembly; and
- initial supply for 2000-2001, to allow the normal operations of the Legislative Assembly and the Parliamentary Service to continue until the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill to be presented to Parliament in 2000 receives assent.

The Bill is in accordance with established practice under which funds for the annual budget of the Legislative Assembly and the Parliamentary Service are requested in a separate annual Appropriation (Parliament) Bill tabled by the Treasurer with the main annual Appropriation Bill.

The usual consultation has been undertaken with the Speaker in finalising the appropriation requested for the Legislative Assembly and the Parliamentary Service.

Consistency with Fundamental Legislative Principles

Under the *Financial Administration and Audit Act 1977*, section 22, words used in this Bill that are defined in the *Financial Administration and Audit Act 1977* have the same meaning the words have in that Act, subject

to a contrary intention in this Bill. Words which are defined in the *Financial Administration and Audit Act 1977* which have the same meaning in this Bill are "administered items", "consolidated fund", "departmental outputs", "equity adjustment", "financial year" and "vote".

NOTES ON PROVISIONS

Clause 1 provides for the short title of the Act.

Clause 2 (1) authorises the Treasurer to pay \$48,902,000 from the Consolidated Fund for services of the Legislative Assembly and the Parliamentary Service for the financial year 1999-2000.

Clause 2 (2) provides that the amount of \$48,902,000 is appropriated for the Legislative Assembly and the Parliamentary Service for application to Parliament's departmental outputs and equity adjustment for 1999-2000 as set out therein. It is the total amount that is appropriated. The amounts for departmental outputs and equity adjustment are not individually appropriated. Section 3 of the *Financial Administration and Audit Act 1977* provides that an amount is not appropriated merely because it is stated in an Annual Appropriation Act as an amount for departmental outputs, equity adjustment or administered items.

Clause 2 (3) provides that the amount of \$48,902,000 includes the amount already authorised by the Appropriation (Parliament) Act 1998, section 4, to be issued for the financial year 1999-2000.

Clause 3 authorises the Treasurer to issue from the Consolidated Fund and apply for supplementing services of the Parliament, for the financial year starting 1 July 1998, the sum of \$1,052,000. This expenditure has been authorised by the Governor in Council as expenditure in advance of appropriation and charged as unforeseen expenditure pursuant to section 25 of the *Financial Administration and Audit Act 1997*. Section 25A of the Act requires in respect of such expenditure that as soon as possible after the end of the relevant financial year, the Treasurer is to prepare and sign a Statement of Unforeseen Expenditure to be Appropriated, have it audited by the Auditor-General and lay it before the Legislative Assembly for the purpose of obtaining supplementary appropriation.

Clause 4 provides initial supply for 2000-2001 and authorises the Treasurer to pay \$25,674,000 from the Consolidated Fund for services of the Legislative Assembly and the Parliamentary Service for that financial year to allow the normal operations of the Parliament to continue until the *Appropriation (Parliament) Bill* to be presented to Parliament in 2000 receives assent.

Clause 5 provides that the Act is an Annual Appropriation Act for the purposes of the *Financial Administration and Audit Act 1977*. This will facilitate the format of the Bill, which provides for the presentation of departmental outputs and equity adjustment at an aggregate level rather than detailing their composition which is included separately in the Budget Papers.

Clause 6 repeals the *Appropriation (Parliament) Act 1996* and the *Appropriation (Parliament) Act (No 2) 1996*, which have had their effect.

LEGISLATIVE STANDARDS

The other matters outlined in section 23 (1) of the *Legislative Standards Act 1992* are not applicable to Appropriation Bills.