

Other Activities

Defence Infrastructure Asset Development Branch Information Day

- 4.1 On 15 April 2003 the Committee and secretariat participated in a PWC Training Day organised by the Defence Infrastructure Asset Development Branch.
- 4.2 The aim of the training day was to instruct officers of the branch in the role and functions of the Committee and to assist them in understanding the Committee inquiry process.
- 4.3 The program commenced with welcome by Brigadier Peter Hutchinson, Director General of Defence Infrastructure Asset Development.
- 4.4 The first session of the program was delivered by Ms Robyn Webber, a senior officer of the House of Representatives, who provided a comprehensive overview of the Australian Parliamentary system, legislation and the committee process. This session set the work of the PWC within its broader parliamentary context.
- 4.5 The next session of the day dealt with the referral process and was delivered by Mr Jeff Kite, Assistant Director of Lands Operations and Public Works at DoFA. Mr Kite discussed DoFA's role in the PWC process, with particular reference to referral and expediency processes.

- 4.6 The third session, delivered by Mrs Margaret Swieringa, Secretary to the PWC, provided a step-by-step description of the PWC inquiry process and explained the role of the secretariat.
- 4.7 This session was followed by an address by Mr Brendan O'Connor MP, Deputy Chair of the PWC. Mr O'Connor explained the expectations and requirements of the Committee with regard to evidence and witnesses.
- 4.8 Following the lunch break, Brigadier Garry Kelly (retired) spoke on the practical aspects of progressing works through the PWC process from the agency's point of view. The Brigadier illustrated his address with examples of works previously brought before the Committee by Defence.
- 4.9 Mr Prakash Mirchandani then addressed the group on the politics of the Committee process.
- 4.10 Brigadier Hutchinson concluded the day with an overview of projects to be brought before the Committee in 2003 and a summary of the day's activities.
- 4.11 The training day met with a very positive response both from Defence and the Committee and an undertaking was made to conduct a similar event in 2004.

National Conference of Parliamentary Public Works and Environment Committees

- 4.12 The 2003 National Conference of Parliamentary Public Works and Environment Committees was hosted by the Parliament of Western Australia. It was held in Perth and Karratha from 30 June to 3 July 2003.
- 4.13 The conference was attended by delegates from the relevant parliamentary committees of the Commonwealth, and of all Australian States and Territories, except for the Northern Territory. International delegates included members of the New Zealand Local Government and Environment Select Committee.
- 4.14 The Committee was represented at the conference by Deputy Chair Mr Brendan O'Connor MP and Senator Richard Colbeck.
- 4.15 The theme of the 2002 national conference was *The Sustainability of Regional Development – Addressing the Triple Bottom Line*. The programme included addresses by:
 - Mr Tony McRae, Chair, Economics and Industry Standing Committee (WA);

- Mr Richard Walley, Aboriginal Products Promotions,
- The Honourable Alannah MacTeirnan, Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, WA;
- Acting Professor Ronnie Harding, Institute of Environmental Studies, University of New South Wales;
- Acting Professor Drew Neil, Director, Institute for Regional Development, University of Western Australia;
- Ms Cheryl Gwilliam, Department of Local Government and Regional Development;
- Dr Bruce Hobbs, Chief Scientist, WA and Executive Director Office of Science and Innovation;
- Professor Peter Newman, Institute for Sustainable Development, Murdoch University and Department of Premier and Cabinet;
- Mr Tim Shanahan, Chief Executive Officer, Chamber of Minerals and Energy of Western Australia;
- Ms Kathleen Lucas, Managing Director, BP Kwinana refinery;
- Mr Wayne Trumble, General Manager, Power Generation, Griffin Coal;
- Mr Mark Warren, Gorgon Development, Chevrontexaco;
- Mr Peter Yu, Lingiari Foundation;
- Dr Gabrielle Morrisey, Director of Sexology, Curtin University;
- Mr Bruce Larson, General Manager, External Affairs, Rio Tinto, WA;
- Mr Larry Kickett, Woodside Energy;
- Mr Louie Warren, BHP Billiton;
- Mr Teddy Allen, Nyamal Elder;
- Ms Erica Smyth, Pilbara Development Commission;
- Dr David Smith, Managing Director, Hamersley Iron; and
- Honourable Dr Judy Edwards, Minister for the Environment, WA.

4.16 In addition to the addresses listed above, the programme included a field trip to inspect the Woodside operations and the Hamersley Iron Port facilities, and a tour of either the Dampier Port or Pilbara rock art.

4.17 Delegates were given the opportunity to present papers outlining the work of their respective committees through 2003.

- 4.18 At the conclusion of the conference, delegates expressed their gratitude to the Parliament of Western Australia for hosting a highly informative and successful event.
- 4.19 The 2004 conference will be hosted by the Parliament of Victoria.