

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

The committee met on Thursday, 30 May 2013 from 9.00 am to 10.25 pm.

The committee called:

- the department and agencies of the Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport portfolio, including the Office of Sport, the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority, the Australian Sports Commission (ASC), the Australian Sports Foundation Limited, the Office for Art, the Australia Council, Screen Australia, the National Film and Sound Archive, the National Gallery of Australia (NGA), the National Library of Australia, the National Museum of Australia, and Creative Partnership Australia.

Among other issues, the following matters were discussed:

- departmental staffing numbers, including the number of voluntary redundancies offered to staff and average salary costs
- the Australian Public Service Commission Staff Survey
- funding for the Taskforce on Constitutional Recognition of Local Government and the proposed referendum, including the advertising campaign, the role of the department, and the relevance of the Williams Case (Williams v Commonwealth)
- the reduction of funding for programs associated with the use of illicit drugs in sport
- the creation of the National Integrity in Sport unit
- the ASC's principles for sports medicine and sports science
- the status of the Australian Crime Commission's Report 'Project Aperiio'
- Commonwealth funding for the Asian Cup and the Cricket World Cup
- funding for Australian Institute of Sport scholarships
- the Australian Centre for Contemporary Arts latest performance
- the reallocation of funding from literacy to the Interactive Games Fund
- Dunalley Community Hall, Kempsey Airport, Freeman House
- the establishment of the Greater Western Sydney Regional Development Authority
- funding for projects within the Goldfields Esperance region
- the Unity Housing project and Wakefield Regional Water Supply project
- state funding for Regional Development Australia committees
- the Murray-Darling Basin Regional Economic Diversification plan
- the My Region website
- Norfolk Island, including the provision air services, emergency Commonwealth funding allocations, education services, Commonwealth funding for the pest and disease survey, status of the roadmap, tax and social security reform, the Commonwealth funded review of child and health services, and the resealing of the runway

- the purchase, by the NGA, of the dancing Shiva statue from a former New York art dealer who is facing looting and smuggling charges in India.