

[CONFIDENTIAL.]
(Rough Draft for Consideration Only.)

No. , 1928.

A BILL

To establish a Finance Commission, and to define its powers and duties; to amend the Public Service Act, 1902, the Metropolitan Water, Sewerage and Drainage Act, 1924, and certain other Acts; and for purposes connected therewith.

BE it enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of New South Wales in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows :—

1. This Act may be cited as the "Finance Commission Act, 1928," and shall come into operation on a day to be appointed by the Governor, and notified by proclamation published in the Gazette.

Short title
and com-
mencement.

2. In this Act, unless the context or subject-matter otherwise requires,— Interpretation.

“Commission” means the Finance Commission established under this Act.

“Public Service” means and includes—

(a) all departments, sub-departments and branches, industrial and other undertakings, to which the provisions of the Public Service Act, 1902, apply;

(b) the service of the following public bodies, namely :—

the Metropolitan Water, Sewerage and Drainage Board,

the Hunter District Water Supply and Sewerage Board,

the Railway Commissioners for New South Wales,

the Water Conservation and Irrigation Commission,

the Sydney Harbour Trust Commissioners,

the Metropolitan Meat Industry Board,

the Australian Museum,

the Board of Fire Commissioners of New South Wales,

and of such other public bodies to the Service of which the Governor by proclamation published in the Gazette may declare that this Act shall apply.

3. (1) There shall be established a commission to be known as the Finance Commission, which shall be subject to the administrative control of the Colonial Treasurer. The Commission.

(2) (a) The Commission shall consist of three persons to be appointed by the Governor.

(b) One of the members of the Commission shall be appointed by the Governor to be chairman.

(c) Any two members of the Commission shall be a quorum and may exercise all the powers and authorities by this Act conferred upon the Commission.

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4. (a) When so directed by the Governor, the Commission shall make a detailed investigation of any department, undertaking, or other section of the Public Service for the purpose of enabling the Governor to determine what changes (with a view to securing greater economy and efficiency) should be made in—

Functions of Commission.

- (i) the existing or proposed organisation, activities and methods of accounting or business thereof;
- (ii) the appropriations proposed to be made or made therefor by Parliament;
- (iii) the assignment of particular activities to particular departments or sections or employees.
- (iv) the regrouping of departments or sections or services or employees.

(b) The Commission shall investigate and advise the Governor on such other matters whether relating to the Public Service or not, as he shall direct.

5. (1) For the purposes of conducting an investigation under the authority of this Act, at which it may be inconvenient for all the members of the Commission to be present, the Commission may delegate any of its powers or functions in respect of the whole or part of the investigation to any one or more members of the Commission. Such member or members shall report the results of such investigation to the Commission.

Delegation.

(2) A delegation of any of its powers or functions in terms of subsection one of this section shall not prevent the Commission as a whole from exercising such powers or functions.

6. For the purposes of any investigation under this Act, the Commission and a delegate shall have the powers and immunities of a Commissioner and the chairman of the Commission shall have the powers of a chairman within the meaning of Division 1 of Part II of the Royal Commissions Act, 1923, and the provisions of that Act with the exception of section thirteen and of Division 2 of Part II shall mutatis mutandis apply to any witness or person summoned by or appearing before the Commission or delegate.

Powers of Commission on investigation.

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Finance Commission.

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7. For the purposes of carrying out the powers, ^{Assistance of} authorities, duties and functions conferred or imposed _{officers.} upon the Commission by this Act, the Commission, with the approval of the Minister of the department concerned, may make use of the services of any of the officers and employees of the Public Service.
