



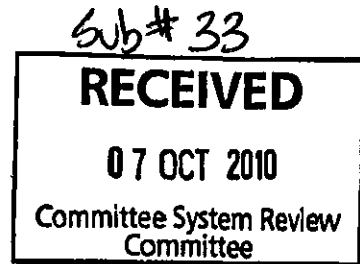
Your Ref:

Our Ref:

CSRC

5 October 2010

Hon Judy Spence MP
Chair
Committee System Review Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000



11-1

Dear Madam Chair

Supplementary Submission to the Committee System Review Committee

Further to my evidence to the Committee at the public hearing on Friday 20 August 2010 I wish to provide additional information requested by Committee Members and canvass other options to some of the possible obstacles and barriers raised.

Ministerial Statements

At the hearing Mr Springborg requested statistics on Ministerial Statements back to 1979.

I attach that information as Appendix A, B and C.

Concurrent proceedings of the House and Committees

At the hearing the ability of the House and Committees meeting to meet concurrently was discussed. Mrs Pratt noted that it was difficult for committees to conduct business whilst the House was sitting, given the risks of divisions. Mr Seeney opined that it would be possible for the House and committees to meet concurrently.

The interchange reminded me of procedures developed in the Scottish Parliament which may be of interest and assistance to the Committee.

In the Scottish Parliament, divisions are not held throughout the day, as questions that require decision arise. Rather, all decisions are, according to the Parliament's Rules taken by resolution and decided at "Decision Time". Rules 11.1 and 11.2 are extracted below:

STANDING ORDERS OF THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT
3rd Edition

CHAPTER 11

DECISIONS AND VOTING

Rule 11.1 Decisions of the Parliament

1. All decisions of the Parliament shall be taken by resolution.
2. A matter requiring a decision of the Parliament shall be decided by a question being put to a meeting of the Parliament by the Presiding Officer on a motion or amendment being moved by a member. The question shall be that the motion or amendment be agreed to.

Rule 11.2 Decision Time

1. Except as provided in Rule 11.3, the Presiding Officer shall put any question in relation to a motion or amendment during Decision Time on the day on which the motion or amendment is moved.
2. Decision Time is the period which normally begins at 17:00 where a meeting of the Parliament is held on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday and at 12:00 where a meeting of the Parliament is held on Friday and which ends when every decision which is to be taken during Decision Time has been taken.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/parliamentaryProcedure/index.htm>

An example of a Notice of Motion for a decision in relation to a Bill in accordance with Rule 11.1 is extracted below:

S3M-06605 Roseanna Cunningham (Perth) (Scottish National Party): Crofting Reform (Scotland) Bill— That the Parliament agrees that the Crofting Reform (Scotland) Bill be passed.

Supported by: Richard Lochhead

Lodged on Thursday, June 17, 2010; taken in the Chamber on Thursday, July 01, 2010

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/Apps2/business/motions/default.aspx>

An extract from the Record of the Parliament as to how such a motion is dealt with at “Decision Time” is provided below:

Decision Time

The Presiding Officer (Alex Fergusson): *There are four questions to be put as a result of today's business.*

The first question is, that motion S3M-6605, in the name of Roseanna Cunningham, on the Crofting Reform (Scotland) Bill, be agreed to. Are we agreed?

Members: *No.*

The Presiding Officer: *There will be a division.*

The Presiding Officer: *The result of the division is: For 66, Against 0, Abstentions 59.*

Motion agreed to,

That the Parliament agrees that the Crofting Reform (Scotland) Bill be passed.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-10/sor0701-02.htm#Col28230>

Scrutiny of Legislation Committee

Recently, you raised with me the work of the Scrutiny of Legislation Committee and how the effectiveness/relevance of that Committee to the work of the House is able to be measured.

In earlier years the Scrutiny of Legislation Committee used to report statistics that indicated the "impact" that the work of the Committee had on the work of the House.

A study of the annual reports for the years 1996-1997 through to 1998-1999 reveal the following information:

Amendments to Bills and percentage of amendments related to comments made by the Scrutiny of Legislation Committee

Financial Year	Amendments moved relating to committee recommendations	Amendments agreed to relating to committee recommendations	Amendments moved relating to committee recommendations that were agreed to
1996-97	12.2%	17%	78.8%
1997-98	11.5%	14%	88.7%
1998-99	7.9%	8.13%	94.74%

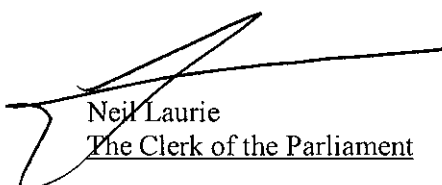
I am given to understand that such statistics were not kept from 2000 onwards as they were labour intensive to determine (from examinations of Hansard, explanatory notes etc.).

I have included at Appendix D, various tables and data detailing the activity of the Committee in the 2007-08 and 2009-10 financial years.

Commonwealth Parliament – "Agreement for a better Parliament – Parliamentary reform document"

In the Legislative Assembly this morning the Honourable the Speaker made comment about the "Agreement for a better Parliament – Parliamentary reform document" for the Commonwealth Parliament and tabled a comparative schedule (comparing the agreement and the position in Queensland). I attach Mr Speaker's statement and copies of the document for the benefit of the members of the Committee.

Yours sincerely

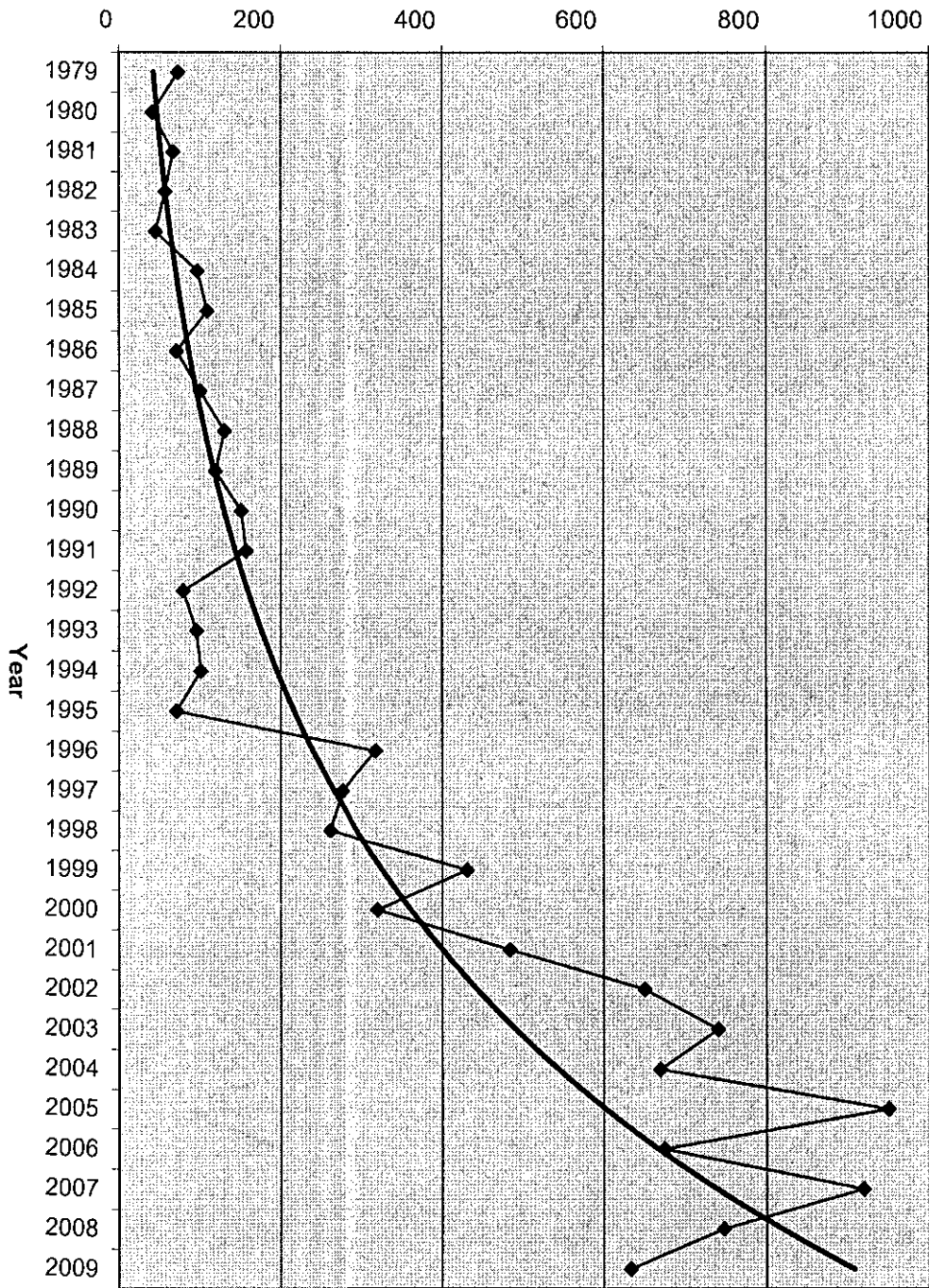

Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament

Appendix A

Total Number of Ministerial Statements made each year and total time for Ministerial Statements 1979-2009

Year	No of Min statements	Total hours/minutes for statements
1979	73	5:16
1980	41	2:39
1981	67	4:36
1982	57	4:03
1983	45	3:19
1984	97	6:45
1985	109	8:12
1986	71	6:00
1987	100	7:35
1988	130	9:17
1989	119	8:39
1990	151	12:11
1991	157	8:49
1992	79	3:15
1993	96	5:33
1994	101	5:48
1995	71	5:05
1996	318	22:24
1997	276	17:26
1998	261	16:58
1999	431	28:23
2000	320	23:14
2001	484	29:27
2002	651	36:53
2003	741	34:36
2004	670	17:05
2005	950	36:12
2006	675	27:59
2007	919	36:23
2008	748	36:29
2009	634	32:20

Number of statements made



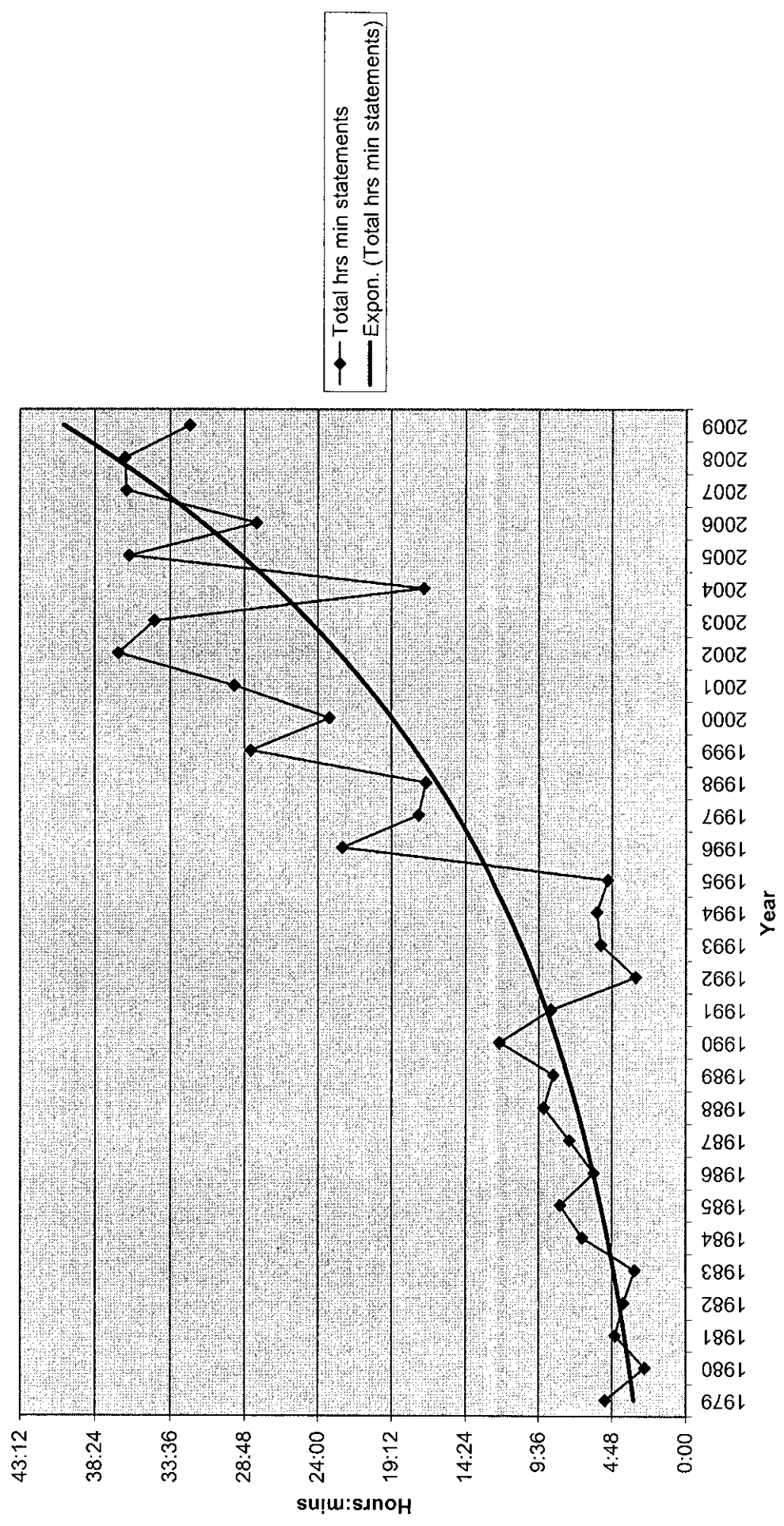
Ministerial Statements made each year
1979-2009

—◆— No of Min statements
— Expon. (No of Min statements)

8

11
C
7

Ministerial Statements - total annual duration 1979-2009



Appendix D

Scrutiny of Legislation Committee: some data regarding activities – 2007-08 and 2009-10

Overview of data

2007-08	2009-10
<u>A. Bills</u>	<u>A. Bills</u>
1. Examination of bills (62 bills, 315 issues)	1. Examination of bills (62 bills, 344 issues)
2. Ministerial correspondence regarding reports (47 responses received)	2. Ministerial correspondence regarding bills (35 responses received)
3. Parliamentary debates (40 bills - SLC mentioned in second reading)	3. Parliamentary debates (28 bills - SLC mentioned in second reading)
4. Explanatory notes (7 references to past issues raised by committee)	4. Explanatory notes (14 references to past issues raised by committee)
<u>B. Subordinate legislation</u>	<u>B. Subordinate legislation</u>
1. Examination of subordinate legislation (17 issues in 15 instruments)	1. Examination of subordinate legislation (37 issues in 35 instruments)
2. Ministerial correspondence regarding reports (N/A – not included in <i>Alert Digest</i>)	2. Ministerial correspondence regarding reports (25 responses required and received)

The data summarised in the overview is set out in more detail on following pages.

2007-08

A. Bills (Government and private members' bills)

1. Examination of bills

No of bills introduced: 81

No of bills reported on during period: 62 (in 13 *Alert Digests*)

No of fundamental legislative principle issues reported on: 315 (see table below)

Fundamental legislative principle issue	Number	%
Sufficient regard to rights and liberties of individuals		
Rights and liberties of individuals (general)	119	38
Rights and liberties of individuals (explanatory notes)	1	1
Administrative power	19	6
Natural justice	9	3
Delegation of administrative power	4	1
Onus of proof	17	5
Power to enter premises	18	6
Protection against self-incrimination	4	1
Retrospective legislation	11	3
Immunity from proceedings or prosecution	17	5
Compulsory acquisition of property	3	1
Aboriginal tradition and Island custom	11	3
Clear and precise drafting	14	4
Sufficient regard to the institution of Parliament		
Institution of Parliament	27	9
Institution of Parliament (independence of judiciary)	6	2
Institution of Parliament (constitutional validity)	1	1
Delegation of legislative power	26	8
Parliamentary scrutiny of delegated power	5	2
Amendment of Act other than by another Act	3	1
Total	315	100

2. Ministerial correspondence responding to reports

No of bills containing issues for response: 50
No of responses received: 47
No of responses received which addressed the issues raised: 42
No of responses received which partially addressed the issues raised: 1
No of responses received which did not address the issues raised: 4
No of responses received in which Minister advised would amend: 0

3. Parliamentary debates

No of bills regarding which 'Scrutiny of Legislation Committee' mentioned during second reading: 40

No of Members who mentioned 'Scrutiny of Legislation Committee' during second reading:54

No of bills regarding which Minister mentioned 'Scrutiny of Legislation Committee' during speech in reply: 10

No of bills regarding which 'Scrutiny of Legislation Committee' mentioned during consideration in detail: 5

Other references: 1 Ministerial statement

4. Explanatory notes

References to previous issues raised by committee: 7

Bill	Introduced	Fundamental legislative principle issue
Corrective Services and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2008	1/5/08	Rights of prisoners
Fisheries Amendment Bill 2008	3/6/08	Amendment of Act other than by another Act
Local Government and Industrial Relations Amendment Bill 2008	12/2/08	Retrospectivity (transitional regulation-making power)
National Gas (Queensland) Bill 2008	15/4/08	Amendment of Act other than by another Act
Transport (Rail Safety) Bill 2008	12/2/08	Institution of Parliament (national scheme legislation)
Urban Land Development Authority Bill 2007	22/8/07	Amendment of Act other than by another Act
Water Fluoridation Bill 2008	12/2/08	Rights and liberties of individuals

B. Subordinate legislation (published in SL series)

1. Examination of subordinate legislation

No of instruments made (SL series 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008): 328

No of instruments that raised issue/s: 15

No of issues: 17 (see table below)

Fundamental legislative principle issue	Number	%
Sufficient regard to rights and liberties of individuals		
Rights and liberties	5	29
Onus of proof	1	5
Clear meaning	2	11
Sufficient regard to the institution of Parliament		
Is within the power which allows the subordinate legislation to be made	5	29
Sufficiently subject the exercise of delegated legislative power to the scrutiny of the Legislative Assembly	1	5
Contains only matter appropriate to subordinate legislation	3	21
Total	17	100

2. Parliamentary debates

No of members who referred to 'Scrutiny of Legislation Committee' during disallowance debate:
2 (regarding one instrument)

2009-10

A. Bills (Government and private members' bills)

1. Examination of bills

No of bills introduced: 68

No of bills reported on during period: 62 (in 15 *Legislation Alerts*)

No of fundamental legislative principle issues reported on: 344 (see table below)

Fundamental legislative principle issue	Number	%
Sufficient regard to rights and liberties of individuals		
Rights and liberties	171	49
Administrative power	23	6
Natural justice	10	3
Delegation of administrative power	10	3
Onus of proof	11	3
Power to enter premises	7	2
Protection against self-incrimination	3	1
Retrospective operation	13	4
Immunity from proceedings or prosecution	16	5
Compulsory acquisition of property	8	2
Aboriginal tradition and Island custom	5	2
Clear meaning	12	4
Sufficient regard to the institution of Parliament		
Institution of Parliament	28	8
Delegation of legislative power	11	3
Parliamentary scrutiny of delegated power	2	1
Amendment of Act other than by another Act	14	4
Total	344	100

2. Ministerial correspondence responding to reports

No of bills containing issues for response: 52
No of responses received: 35
No of responses received which addressed the issues raised: 31
No of responses received which partially addressed the issues raised: 1
No of responses received which did not address the issues raised: 3
No of responses received in which Minister advised would amend: 1

3. Parliamentary debates

No of bills regarding which 'Scrutiny of Legislation Committee' mentioned during second reading: 28

No of Members who mentioned 'Scrutiny of Legislation Committee' during second reading: 59

No of bills regarding which Minister mentioned 'Scrutiny of Legislation Committee' during speech in reply: 9

No of bills regarding which 'Scrutiny of Legislation Committee' mentioned during consideration in detail: 6

4. Explanatory notes

References to previous issues raised by committee: 14

Bill	Introduced	Fundamental legislative principle issue
Personal Property Securities (Commonwealth Powers) Bill 2009	1/9/09	Institution of Parliament (ability of State to terminate a referral)
City of Brisbane Bill 2010	15/4/10	Power to enter premises (entering under approved inspection program)
Civil and Criminal Jurisdiction Reform and Modernisation Amendment Bill 2010	13/4/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rights and liberties (administrative liability to prosecution or proceedings should be finite) • Protection against self-incrimination
Credit (Commonwealth Powers) Bill 2009	10/11/09	Institution of Parliament (referral of legislative power)
Education and Training Legislation Amendment Bill 2010	18/5/10	Right to privacy
Fair Work (Commonwealth Powers) and Other Provisions Bill 2009	27/10/09	Institution of Parliament (referral of legislative power)
Gambling and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2009	3/9/09	Delegation of legislative power (subordinate legislation should contain matters appropriate to delegated power)
Health Legislation (Health Practitioner Regulation National Law) Amendment Bill 2010	25/3/10	Institution of Parliament (national scheme legislation)
Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Bill 2009	6/10/09	Institution of Parliament (national scheme legislation)
Integrity Bill 2009	10/11/09	Right to privacy (in respect of advice sought from commissioner)
Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2010	9/3/10	Amendment of Act other than by another Act
Transport (Rail Safety) Bill 2010	9/2/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institution of Parliament (national scheme legislation) • Administrative power (appropriate person) (three issues)

B. Subordinate legislation (published in SL series)

1. Examination of subordinate legislation

No of instruments made (SL series 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010): 369

No of instruments that raised issue/s: 35

No of issues: 37 (see table below)

Fundamental legislative principle issue	Number	%
Sufficient regard to rights and liberties of individuals		
Rights and liberties	17	47
Clear meaning	7	19
Administrative power (sufficiently defined)	5	14
Aboriginal tradition and Island custom	1	3
Sufficient regard to the institution of Parliament		
Is within the power which allows the subordinate legislation to be made	1	3
Sufficiently subject the exercise of delegated legislative power to the scrutiny of the Legislative Assembly	1	3
Allows the delegation of legislative power only in appropriate cases and to appropriate persons	1	3
Lawfulness	3	5
Contains only matter appropriate to subordinate legislation	1	3
Total	37	100

2. Ministerial correspondence responding to reports

No of SL containing issues requiring response: 25
No of responses received: 25
No of responses received which addressed the issues raised: 25
No of responses received in which Minister advised would amend: 0

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENT- AGREEMENT FOR A BETTER PARLIAMENT - PARLIAMENTARY REFORM	FURTHER EXPLANATION	QUEENSLAND COMPARATIVE - SUMMARY	QUEENSLAND COMPARATIVE - DETAIL	COMMENTARY/OBSERVATION
<p>1. ENHANCING THE PARTICIPATION OF ALL MEMBERS IN THE MANAGEMENT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES</p> <p>An expanded Selection Committee will be established, including aligned and non-aligned Members.</p> <p>The Committee will be Chaired by the Speaker.</p> <p>All Members will receive the same rights for the purposes of facilitating their full participation in all processes of the House. For the purposes of Standing Order 41A, Question Time and participation in all other debates, all Members interests would be guaranteed by the Selection Committee.</p>	<p>In the House of representatives, the arrangement of private Members business and the order of presentation and consideration of committee and delegation reports on Mondays, and the allocation of time for their debate, is the responsibility of the Selection Committee (S.O. 331).</p> <p>When the House is sitting the committee meets weekly. It normally reports on Tuesdays, listing the matters for debate on the Monday of the next sitting week.</p>	<p>No direct comparison</p>	<p>The Queensland Legislative Assembly has no equivalent to a Selection Committee or Business Committee. Rather, the organisation of business lays primarily with the Leader of the House who liaises with Opposition and non-aligned Members.</p> <p>Participation in debates is either proportional or by right and guaranteed by the Speaker by practice, if agreement/consensus should fail.</p>	
<p>2 . INDEPENDENT SPEAKER</p> <p>2.1 Independence</p> <p>The role of the Speaker will be independent of Government.</p> <p>If the Speaker is drawn from a political party then the Deputy Speaker will be drawn from an alternate political party and both the Speaker and Deputy Speaker will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> abstain from attending their respective party rooms; and when in the Chair, be paired for all divisions. <p>If the Speaker is non-aligned, then the same pairing arrangements will apply.</p> <p>The Speaker and Deputy Speaker can participate in Private Members” Business but cannot vote.</p> <p>Members of the Speakers Panel will be temporarily paired when occupying the chair during votes.</p>	<p>The Commonwealth Constitution provides:</p> <p><i>40. Questions arising in the House of Representatives shall be determined by a majority of votes other than that of the Speaker. The Speaker shall not vote unless the numbers are equal, and then he shall have a casting vote.</i></p> <p>The Standing Orders of the House of Representatives state as follows:</p> <p>135 Recording of division <i>(a) The Clerk shall record lists of divisions in the Votes and Proceedings.</i> <i>(b) If a Member complains to the House that a division has been wrongly recorded, the Speaker may direct the record to be corrected.</i> <i>(c) Any reasons given by the Speaker for exercising a casting vote in accordance with section 40 of the Constitution, must be entered in the Votes and Proceedings.</i></p>	<p>No direct comparison</p>	<p>The Queensland Legislative Assembly’s Standing Orders make it clear that the Speaker presides over the Assembly and maintains order in the House. The Speaker enforces Standing Orders both on their own motion and if points are called by Members.</p> <p>Members are entitled to expect that, even though politically affiliated, the Speaker will carry out their functions impartially. Likewise, a Speaker is entitled to expect support from all Members for the role of Speaker, regardless of their party affiliation.</p> <p>In the Queensland Legislative Assembly, Speakers have generally attended party meetings. There have also been instances where Speakers have participated in debate, although this has been very rare.</p> <p>The Speaker, Deputy Speaker and all but one (1) member of the eight (8) Members of the Speaker’s Panel are Members of the governing party.</p> <p>There is currently no pairing system in place in the Queensland Parliament.</p> <p>The Parliament of Queensland Act 2001 provides:</p> <p>13 Voting <i>At a meeting of the Assembly or a Committee of the Whole House—</i> <i>(a) a question is decided by a majority of the Members present and voting; and</i> <i>(b) the Speaker or Chairperson of Committees presiding—</i> <i>(i) has no deliberative vote; but</i> <i>(ii) if the votes are equal, has the casting vote.</i></p>	<p>It is not known/explained how a Speaker who is non-aligned will be paired.</p> <p>The Speaker in both the Commonwealth Parliament and the Queensland Parliament do not have a deliberative vote, but a casting vote.</p> <p>It is difficult to envisage how a casting vote and a deliberative vote are able to be “paired”.</p> <p>It is noted that on 2 April 1996, leave was sought by the Leader of the Opposition to introduce a Bill to give the Speaker and Chairman of Committees, when they were presiding over debate in the Legislative Assembly, a deliberative vote. The Bill was introduced on the basis that as the numbers in the House were so close, the proposed Bill would ensure that an Independent member would have the casting vote instead of the Speaker. This attempt failed after a lengthy debate.</p>
<p>2.2 Power of the Speaker</p> <p>The Speaker will rigorously enforce the Standing Orders of his or her own motion.</p>		<p>Already in place/practice in Queensland</p>	<p>The Queensland Legislative Assembly’s Standing Orders make it clear that the Speaker presides over the Assembly and maintains order in the House. The Speaker enforces Standing Orders both on their own motion and if points are called by Members.</p>	

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENT- AGREEMENT FOR A BETTER PARLIAMENT - PARLIAMENTARY REFORM	FURTHER EXPLANATION	QUEENSLAND COMPARATIVE - SUMMARY	QUEENSLAND COMPARATIVE - DETAIL	COMMENTARY/OBSERVATION
<p>3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY</p> <p>At the beginning of each sitting day, prior to prayers, the Speaker will make an acknowledgement of country.</p>		<p>Already in place/practice in Queensland, although occurs after prayers rather than before prayers</p>	<p>In the 52nd Parliament (2007) at the beginning of each sitting day, after prayers, the Speaker makes an acknowledgement of country.</p> <p>In the 53rd Parliament (2009) at the beginning of each sitting week, after prayers, the Speaker makes an acknowledgement of country.</p>	
<p>4. QUESTION TIME</p> <p>4.1 Time Limits for Questions and Answers</p> <p>Questions during Question Time be limited to forty five seconds and answers to four minutes.</p> <p>It is noted that a Member may ask leave of the House for an extension of time.</p>		<p>Already in place through Sessional Orders in Queensland – since 1998</p>	<p>The Queensland Legislative Assembly has imposed a time limit (3 minutes) to all answers to questions without notice since the commencement of the 49th Parliament in 1998. There is no time limit on questions, being at the discretion of the Speaker.</p> <p>Sessional Orders also permit motions for extension of time to answer questions, but is exercised rarely.</p>	<p>Queensland Sessional Orders provide a superior model, if the reduction in lengthy answers is the objective.</p>
<p>4.2 Supplementary Question</p> <p>The Leader of the Opposition or their delegate has the option of asking one supplementary question during each Question Time.</p>		<p>Already in place/practice in Queensland in a practical sense</p>	<p>The Queensland Legislative Assembly does not allow supplementary questions. However, Standing Order 113 provides that the Leader of the Opposition may ask two questions in Question Time, whereas all other Members may only ask one question.</p>	
<p>4.3 Duration of Question</p> <p>Question Time will conclude no later than 3. 30pm, enabling 20 questions each day in the normal course of events.</p>		<p>Already in place/practice in Queensland in a practical sense since at least 1998</p>	<p>The Queensland Legislative Assembly’s Sessional Orders provide that Question Time is for one hour. The time limits to answers described above, ensure approximately 18-20 questions are asked and answered each day.</p>	
<p>4.4 Questions</p> <p>The Speaker shall give due regard to Standing Order 100 dealing with the material that questions may contain but not in such a way that would inhibit the ability of the Opposition to hold the Government to account.</p>		<p>Already in place/practice in Queensland in a practical sense</p>	<p>The Queensland Legislative Assembly’s Standing Order 115 details rules for Questions which the Speaker enforces. Often the Speaker allows Members to rephrase questions that would be out of order.</p>	
<p>4.5 “Relevance” Standing Order</p> <p>The Standing Orders be amended so that answers must be “directly relevant to the question”, with the Speaker to lead on enforcement of the relevance test.</p> <p>The Government and Opposition will support the Speaker in taking a strong stance on this issue.</p>		<p>Material difference</p>	<p>The Queensland Legislative Assembly’s Standing Order 118(b) provides that answers to questions shall be “relevant to the question”. The interpretation of this Standing Order to date has been largely in accordance with similar practices in other Houses, such as the House of Representatives, that is, that the Chair will generally not interfere with the manner in which a Minister answers the question.</p>	<p>Presumably the requirement that answers be “directly relevant to the question” is striving to make answers more responsive to the actual question, rather than answering in a way to which the subject or topic of the question is canvassed, but the question is not directly answered.</p>
<p>4.6 Proportionate Share</p> <p>A proportionate share of the Questions be allocated to non-aligned Members, including the order in which those questions are asked during Question Time.</p>		<p>Already in place/practice in Queensland in a practical sense</p>	<p>While not formally provided for within Standing or Sessional Orders, non-aligned Members receive a proportional share of questions, opportunities to move notices of motion and speaking opportunities to Matters of Public Interest and adjournment debates. Generally, this proportionality is worked out between the Opposition and non-aligned Members. However, in case of dispute, the Speaker may be called upon to intervene and enforce proportionality.</p>	

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENT- AGREEMENT FOR A BETTER PARLIAMENT - PARLIAMENTARY REFORM	FURTHER EXPLANATION	QUEENSLAND COMPARATIVE - SUMMARY	QUEENSLAND COMPARATIVE - DETAIL	COMMENTARY/OBSERVATION
<p>4.7 Points of Order</p> <p>The Standing Orders be principally raised and enforced by the Speaker.</p> <p>The point of order on relevance can only be once per question.</p>		<p>Already in place/practice in Queensland in a practical sense</p>	<p>The Queensland Legislative Assembly's Standing Orders make it clear that the Speaker presides over the Assembly and maintains order in the House. The Speaker enforces Standing Orders both on their own motion and if points of order are called by Members.</p> <p>There are no limits on the number of points of order that can be called, but practice makes it clear that raising frivolous points of order is disorderly.</p>	
<p>4.8 Notes</p> <p>It is the preference in Question-Time for both questioners and Ministers to use best endeavours not to use notes. It is understood there are times when notes should be used to assist in providing the House with the best possible information in the most accurate and timely way possible. However, at all other times, the preference is no notes.</p> <p>This will be reviewed at the end of the first session to see if further restrictions on use of notes in Question Time can and should be applied.</p>		<p>Material difference</p>	<p>Past practice has been for speeches not to be read, but notes can be used.</p> <p>Recent practice has been to enable reference to copious notes or reading of speeches including during answers to questions.</p>	
<p>5. MATTERS OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE</p> <p>5.1 Length</p> <p>The maximum length of discussion on Matters of Public Importance be extended to 1 hour and thirty minutes. That the proposer and the next speaker be allowed to speak for up to 15 minutes and that other speakers be allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes.</p>		<p>Similar, with (1) one hour rather than (1 ½) one and a half hours for debate</p>	<p>The Queensland Legislative Assembly's Sessional Orders enable one Matter of Public Interest debate for 1 hour each Tuesday, immediately following Question Time. The Leader of the Opposition or nominee has 10 minutes, all other Members (5) five minutes.</p>	<p>The time for debate of Matters of Public Interest is shorter in Queensland. However, the Queensland Legislative Assembly has only 89 Members and the House of Representatives 150 Members.</p>
<p>5.2 Greater Prominence</p> <p>The Matter of Public Importance debate will immediately follow Question Time.</p>		<p>Already in place in Queensland</p>	<p>The Queensland Legislative Assembly's Sessional Orders enable 1 matter of Public Interest debate for 1 hour each Tuesday, immediately following Question Time.</p>	
<p>5.3 Proportionate Share</p> <p>A proportionate share of Matters of Public Importance be allocated to all non-Government Members.</p>		<p>Already in place/practice in Queensland</p>	<p>Whilst not formally provided for within Standing or Sessional Orders, non-aligned Members receive a proportional share of questions, opportunities to move notices of motion and speaking opportunities to Matters of Public Interest and adjournment debates. Generally, this proportionality is worked out between the Opposition and those non-aligned Members. However, in case of dispute, the Speaker may be called upon to intervene and enforce proportionality.</p>	
<p>6. PRIVATE MEMBERS BUSINESS AND PRIVATE MEMBERS BILLS</p> <p>6.1 Voting on Private Members' Bills</p> <p>The Speaker, the Leader of the House, and the Selection committee, will ensure time is allocated for votes on Private Members' Bills during Government Business time in the Main Chamber.</p>		<p>Already in place/practice in Queensland, but in Private Members' time</p>	<p>The Queensland Legislative Assembly has allotted time for the introduction, debate and division on Private Members' Bills since the commencement of the 49th Parliament in 1998.</p> <p>The Queensland Legislative Assembly has no main committee.</p> <p>However, precedence for Private Members' Bills and other Private Members' Business is provided on Wednesday evenings from 5.30pm, rather than such business being conducted in Government Business.</p>	

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<p>6.2 Priority given for Private Members Business on Mondays</p> <p>The Standing Orders will be amended to provide for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a period of committee and delegation business and private Members' business to be given priority in the Chamber on Mondays from 12 noon 1.45pm, beginning with Petitions Committee report and statement(s) for 10 minutes; quorums and divisions called during the period of committee and delegation business and private Members' business being deferred until 5pm on Monday; the Main Committee to regularly meet on Mondays from 10. 30 a.m. to 1. 30 p.m, commencing with a 30 minute period of three minute constituency statements as provided by standing order 19 3, followed by committee and delegation reports and private Members' business being given priority; 90 second statements to take place from 1.45 p.m. each day, prior to Question Time, in the Main Chamber; a period of committee and delegation business and private Members' business to be given priority in the Chamber from 7: 30pm to 9: 30pm; and the adjournment to be proposed at 9. 30 p.m. on Mondays, and the House adjourning at 10 p.m. 		Material differences	<p>The Queensland Legislative Assembly's Sessional Orders has allotted time for Private Members' business in various ways since 1996, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Precedence for the debate and division on Private Members' Bills on Wednesday nights since the commencement of the 49th Parliament in 1998; and Private Members' Statements (two minutes each) immediately prior to Question Time from the 48th Parliament (1996) until 2007. From 2007, 30 minutes each Wednesday morning immediately after Question Time was set aside for Private Members Statements (two minutes each). An adjournment debate of 30 minutes (three minutes each speech) at the conclusion of each sitting day. One hour set aside each night for debate of private Members' motions in the 48th and 49th Parliament (1996) until 2001. From 2001, one debate of Private Members' Motion each Wednesday from 5.30-6.30pm Time spent on Matters of Public Interest, Adjournment debates, debate of Private Members' Motions and Private Members' Statements have totaled between approximately three and a half hours to four hours per sitting week since 2001. 	<p>The amount of Private Members' time available has decreased since the 48th and 49th Parliament, when there were minority governments. For example, the number of Private Members' Statements before question time decreased significantly from the 1996-2001 period to the 2001-2007 period, as demonstrated by the Table below.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="2021 447 2487 1262"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>No. made</th> <th>Total hrs min</th> <th>Average daily duration (in minutes)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2009</td> <td>193</td> <td>6:40</td> <td>10.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2008</td> <td>199</td> <td>6:50</td> <td>9.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2007 total</td> <td>99</td> <td>3:32</td> <td>4.9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>After sessional orders amended</td> <td>68</td> <td>2:21</td> <td>8.8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Before sessional orders amended</td> <td>31</td> <td>1:11</td> <td>2.6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2006</td> <td>76</td> <td>2:36</td> <td>4.1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2005</td> <td>130</td> <td>4:47</td> <td>5.9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2004</td> <td>97</td> <td>3:31</td> <td>5.3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2003</td> <td>122</td> <td>4:05</td> <td>5.3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2002</td> <td>151</td> <td>5:00</td> <td>5.7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2001</td> <td>211</td> <td>6:56</td> <td>9.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2000</td> <td>212</td> <td>7:00</td> <td>10.2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1999</td> <td>319</td> <td>10:27</td> <td>11.2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1998</td> <td>217</td> <td>7:32</td> <td>12.3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1997</td> <td>311</td> <td>10:21</td> <td>14.1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1996</td> <td>315</td> <td>10:56</td> <td>14.0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>In addition, after 2001, the number of Private Members' Motions debated each week declined from three to one.</p> <p>However, time for Private Members' Bills on Wednesday evenings remains largely unchanged.</p>	Year	No. made	Total hrs min	Average daily duration (in minutes)	2009	193	6:40	10.0	2008	199	6:50	9.5	2007 total	99	3:32	4.9	After sessional orders amended	68	2:21	8.8	Before sessional orders amended	31	1:11	2.6	2006	76	2:36	4.1	2005	130	4:47	5.9	2004	97	3:31	5.3	2003	122	4:05	5.3	2002	151	5:00	5.7	2001	211	6:56	9.0	2000	212	7:00	10.2	1999	319	10:27	11.2	1998	217	7:32	12.3	1997	311	10:21	14.1	1996	315	10:56	14.0
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<p>7. ADJOURNMENT</p> <p>The Adjournment Debate shall be one hour on Monday and Tuesdays, and 30 minutes on Wednesdays and Thursdays.</p>		Similar, with ½ hour rather than 1 hour for debate	The Queensland Legislative Assembly's Sessional Orders provide for an adjournment debate of 30 minutes (three minutes each speech) at the conclusion of each sitting day.	The time for adjournment debates is half that of the House of Representatives. However, the Queensland Legislative Assembly has only 89 Members and the House of Representatives 150 Members.																																																																				

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<p>8. 90 SECOND STATEMENTS</p> <p>15 minutes will be allocated prior to Question time for Members to make 90 Second Statements on constituency issues.</p>		Material difference	<p>The Queensland Legislative Assembly's Sessional Orders provided for Private Members' Statements (two minutes each) immediately prior to Question Time from the 48th Parliament (1996) until 2007. From 2007, 30 minutes each Wednesday morning immediately after Question Time was set aside for Private Members Statements (two minutes each).</p> <p>The time before Question Time is mostly dominated by Ministerial Statements (1 hour each day).</p>	<table border="1" data-bbox="2021 222 2516 810"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>No of Ministerial Statements</th> <th>Total hours Ministerial Statements</th> <th>Average daily duration (in minutes)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>1996</td><td>318</td><td>22:24</td><td>28.6</td></tr> <tr><td>1997</td><td>276</td><td>17:26</td><td>23.8</td></tr> <tr><td>1998</td><td>261</td><td>16:58</td><td>29.1</td></tr> <tr><td>1999</td><td>431</td><td>28:23</td><td>30.4</td></tr> <tr><td>2000</td><td>320</td><td>23:14</td><td>34</td></tr> <tr><td>2001</td><td>484</td><td>29:27</td><td>38.4</td></tr> <tr><td>2002</td><td>651</td><td>36:53</td><td>41.8</td></tr> <tr><td>2003</td><td>741</td><td>34:36</td><td>45</td></tr> <tr><td>2004</td><td>670</td><td>17:05</td><td>25.6</td></tr> <tr><td>2005</td><td>950</td><td>36:12</td><td>44.3</td></tr> <tr><td>2006</td><td>675</td><td>27:59</td><td>44.2</td></tr> <tr><td>2007</td><td>919</td><td>36:23</td><td>50.8</td></tr> <tr><td>2008</td><td>748</td><td>36:29</td><td>50.9</td></tr> <tr><td>2009</td><td>634</td><td>32:20</td><td>48.5</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The time before Question Time is mostly dominated by Ministerial Statements (1 hour each day). The table above indicates both the number of Ministerial Statements and number of hours spent on Ministerial Statements each year.</p>	Year	No of Ministerial Statements	Total hours Ministerial Statements	Average daily duration (in minutes)	1996	318	22:24	28.6	1997	276	17:26	23.8	1998	261	16:58	29.1	1999	431	28:23	30.4	2000	320	23:14	34	2001	484	29:27	38.4	2002	651	36:53	41.8	2003	741	34:36	45	2004	670	17:05	25.6	2005	950	36:12	44.3	2006	675	27:59	44.2	2007	919	36:23	50.8	2008	748	36:29	50.9	2009	634	32:20	48.5
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<p>9. MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS</p> <p>9.1 Time Limits</p> <p>Ministerial statements and response be limited to 10 minutes, except in circumstances agreed to by the Speaker or for Prime Ministerial statements.</p>		Material difference	<p>The Queensland Legislative Assembly's Sessional Orders provide for a range of business prior to Question Time, including Speaker's Statements, Ministerial Papers, Ministerial Statements and Notices of Motion.</p>	<p>In practice the time before Question Time (1 hour each day) is mostly dominated by Ministerial Statements. (see above)</p>																																																												
<p>9.2 Proportionate Opportunities to Respond to Ministerial Statements</p> <p>The Speaker will ensure that opportunities to respond are provided to non-Government Members.</p>		Material difference	<p>The Queensland Legislative Assembly's Standing Orders provide opportunity for a Minister to move that their Ministerial Statement be noted, which enables the Leader of the Opposition or their nominee to respond.</p>	<p>This procedure is very rarely used. Those occasions where it has been used have usually related to natural disasters or other significant disasters or special events such as visiting dignitaries.</p>																																																												
<p>10. THE COMMITTEE SYSTEM</p> <p>10.1 Numbers of Committees</p> <p>The number of general purpose standing committees be reduced to nine, comprising standing committees on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs; • Economics; • Education and Employment; • Climate Change, Environment and the Arts; • Health and Ageing; • Infrastructure and communications; • Social Policy and Legal Affairs; • Agriculture, Resources, Fisheries and Forestry; and • Regional Australia. 		Material difference – but Committee system under review	<p>The Queensland Legislative Assembly currently has the following eleven (11) parliamentary committees to assist the Queensland Parliament to operate more effectively.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee System Review Committee (CSRC) • Economic Development Committee (EDC) • Environment and Resources Committee (ERC) • Integrity, Ethics and Parliamentary Privileges Committee (IEPPC) (formerly the Members' Ethics and Parliamentary Privileges Committee) • Law, Justice and Safety Committee (LJSC) (formerly the Legal, Constitutional and Administrative Review Committee) • Parliamentary Crime and Misconduct Committee (PCMC) • Public Accounts and Public Works Committee (PAPWC) • Scrutiny of Legislation Committee (SLC) • Social Development Committee (SDC) • Speaker's Advisory Committee (SAC) 	<p>The Committee System Review Committee (CSRC) has been established to conduct an inquiry and report on how the Parliamentary oversight of legislation could be enhanced and how the existing Parliamentary Committee system could be strengthened to enhance accountability.</p> <p>In undertaking this inquiry, the committee has been tasked to consider—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the role of Parliamentary committees in both Australian and international jurisdictions in examining legislative proposals, particularly those with unicameral parliaments; • timely and cost effective ways by which Queensland Parliamentary Committees can more effectively evaluate and examine legislative proposals; and • the effectiveness of the operation of the committee structure of the 53rd Parliament following the restructure of the committee system on 23 April 2009. 																																																												

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standing Orders Committee (SOC) <p>Estimates Committees are also established on an annual basis by resolution of the Legislative Assembly to examine and report on proposed expenditure in the appropriation bills.</p> <p>Of the 11 above committees, four (4) could be classified as being similar to “general purpose standing committees”.</p>	<p>The committee will include in its report options on models for structuring the Queensland Parliamentary Committee system.</p> <p>The committee will report to the Legislative Assembly by the end of 2010.</p>
<p>10 .2 Committee Membership</p> <p>Membership of committees will ideally be seven. Committee Membership will fully reflect Membership of the House, including the crossbench.</p> <p>The maximum number of supplementary Members for each general purpose standing committee inquiry be increased to four; with supplementary Members having full participatory rights, other than voting rights.</p>		Similar	<p>Almost all of the current committees of the Queensland Legislative Assembly have seven Members Members.</p> <p>The Queensland Legislative Assembly has no supplementary Members for committees. However, Standing Orders 195(5) and (6) and 272 provide for the Speaker to replace Members with other Members in certain circumstances. In such case, the replacement Members have full participatory rights, including voting rights.</p>	
<p>10 .3 Powers of Committees</p> <p>The powers of Committees be referred immediately to the Committee of Chairs as soon as established to ensure the most authority possible for Committees within allocated resources.</p>			<p>Most of the Standing, Select and Statutory Committees of the Queensland Legislative Assembly have the very wide powers to call for persons and things.</p> <p><i>The Constitution of Queensland 2001 and the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001</i> provide clear powers to authorised committees.</p>	Queensland estimates committees do not have the power to call for persons and things.
<p>10.4 Chair of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Public Accounts and Audit</p> <p>The Chairman of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Public Accounts and Audit be drawn from a member of a non-Government party or a non-aligned Member.</p>		Material difference – but Committee system under review	No Committees of the Queensland Legislative Assembly have non-government aligned Members as chairs.	
<p>10.5 Pre-Legislative Scrutiny of Bills</p> <p>All Bills to be introduced into the House be referred immediately to the Selection Committee.</p> <p>All Bills regarded as controversial or requiring further consultation or debate be immediately referred to the relevant Standing or Joint Committee to allow a period of discussion and public consultation on introduction. One member objecting in the Selection Committee will be sufficient to declare a Bill controversial.</p> <p>Non-controversial Bills will be authorised for immediate introduction into the House.</p> <p>This mechanism will be reviewed to ensure it does not cause unnecessary delays to the House legislative processes, and is indeed a mechanism to speed up the legislative agenda.</p>		Material difference – but Committee system under review	<p>Committees of the Queensland Legislative Assembly are rarely referred legislation.</p> <p>The exception being the Scrutiny of Legislation Committee which has a specific function to audit compliance in the drafting of Bills with a set of fundamental legislative principles.</p>	

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<p>10.6 Responses to Committee Reports</p> <p>Within six months of a House or Joint committee report being presented in the House, a government response will be tabled in the House. If no such response has been received within six months of such a report being presented in the House, a statement signed by the relevant Minister (or Minister representing the Minister) must be tabled stating the reasons why the response could not be prepared in time.</p> <p>The Minister (or Minister representing the Minister) must also make themselves available to appear before the relevant Committee at the next reasonably available opportunity to answer questions on that statement.</p> <p>Following this, issues of dispute between a Parliamentary Committee and an Executive will be referred to the Auditor-General for further follow-up, clarification, and attempted resolution.</p> <p>A timely response to Committee Reports will be included as a Key Performance Indicator in the employment arrangements of Agency Heads.</p> <p>The Clerks will ensure a report on the status of responses to Committee Reports is included in the Notice Paper on a monthly basis online.</p>		Material difference – but Committee system under review	<p>Section 107 of the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001 provides for Ministerial responses to committee reports. A Minister must table a response within 3 months after the report is tabled.</p> <p>If a Minister can not comply within 3 months, the Minister must table an interim response and the Minister’s reasons for not complying within 3 months; and within 6 months after the report is tabled, table the response.</p> <p>Responses are not usually reconsidered by the Committee that made them.</p> <p>The Auditor-General is not involved in evaluating responses to committee reports.</p>	
<p>10.7 Statements during Private Members Business by Committee Chairs</p> <p>Standing orders will be amended to provide for committee Chairs to make short statements during private Members’ business time, informing the House of new inquiries being undertaken by the committee.</p>		Material difference – but Committee system under review	Sessional Orders enable Committee Chairs when tabling reports to move that the reports be debated – and the reports can be bought on for debate on the following sitting Thursday before Question Time.	In the last decade a total of 45 minutes has been spent in the Legislative Assembly debating non-estimates committee reports. While it is noted that notice of motion was given on five occasions, only three motions were moved. (The notice of motion to debate the Review of the Organ and Tissue Donation Procedures Select Committee Report was not moved due to the dissolution of the Parliament.) Of 191 ‘inquiry reports’ only three (3), or less than 2% have been formally considered by the Legislative Assembly.
<p>11. CONSIDERATION OF BILLS</p> <p>11.1 Speaking Times</p> <p>The time limit allocated for all Members speaking on Bills will be reduced from 20 to 15 minutes.</p> <p>The Selection Committee is able to determine, where a Bill is not controversial, that time limits for speaking on that Bill be reduced to 5 or 10 minutes.</p> <p>Where a large number of Members wish to speak on a particular Bill, the Selection Committee can, by agreement, place limits on speaking times to facilitate as many Members as possible speaking on the Bill.</p> <p>The Speaker, with the Selection Committee, is to consider and potentially trial 5 minutes of questions (30 second question with two minute answers) at the end of all MP’s speeches, so as to encourage</p>		Material difference	<p>Speaking times in Government Bills are 1 hour for Leader of the Opposition or nominee and 20 minutes for all other Members.</p> <p>Speaking times in Private Members Bills are 10 minutes for all Members.</p> <p>No questions are entered into during second reading debates.</p>	

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"smarter debate".												
<p>11.2 Consideration in Detail</p> <p>The Leader of the House in consultation with the Selection Committee will ensure that;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> during Government Business time in the Main Chamber additional time will be allocated for the summing up of Appropriations and related Budget Bills by the Minister for Finance; and additional time is allocated for the Consideration in Detail process in the Main Committee. 		Material difference	<p>The Queensland Legislative Assembly has no equivalent to the House of Representative's "Selection Committee" or "Main Committee".</p> <p>Consideration in detail of Bills occurs in the House., with time limits for Government Bills as follows:</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="1397 449 1872 825"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 10px;">Consideration in Detail</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>– Mover</td> <td>no limit</td> </tr> <tr> <td>– Minister responsible for policy area (on each question)</td> <td>1 x 20 minutes; or 2 x 10 minutes; or 1 x 10 minutes and 2 x 5 minutes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>– Other Members (on each question)</td> <td>1 x 10 minutes or 2 x 5 minutes</td> </tr> </table>	Consideration in Detail		– Mover	no limit	– Minister responsible for policy area (on each question)	1 x 20 minutes; or 2 x 10 minutes; or 1 x 10 minutes and 2 x 5 minutes	– Other Members (on each question)	1 x 10 minutes or 2 x 5 minutes	
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<p>12 RECOMMITAL OF VOTES</p> <p>The Standing Orders be amended so that there may be a recommittal of a vote on the same sitting day when a Member is inadvertently absent following a successful suspension of standing orders after debate.</p>		Already able to occur in Queensland	Standing and Sessional Orders can always be suspended to enable a recommittal of votes.									
<p>13. APPROPRIATION BILLS</p> <p>The Senate resolution on appropriation bills which contain matters which should have been the subject of separate legislation is noted. To prevent this occurring, the parties and non-aligned Members agree to developing a mechanism to resolve this issue prior to the next appropriation bills being introduced.</p>		Disputes between Houses are irrelevant to a unicameral Parliament										
<p>14. ASSENT TO LEGISLATION</p> <p>A mechanism be established to ensure a commencement date be included in all legislation.</p>		Able to occur	The <i>Acts Interpretation Act 1951</i> enables fixed commencement dates.									
<p>15. SITTING DAYS</p> <p>That more sitting weeks each year be considered depending on Government and Private Members Business.</p>		Able to occur	In recent years the Queensland Parliament has been sitting significantly fewer days and significantly longer average hours.	<p>In the 1990s the Legislative Assembly would generally in a non-election year sit between 52 to 58 days a year. In more recent years, the number of sitting days each non-election year is between 40 and 43 days, 2002 being the exception.</p> <p>For example, in 2009 (an election year) the Legislative Assembly only sat 40 days, but sat a total of 492 hours or an average of 12 hours and 18 minutes a day, whereas in 1995 (another election year) it sat 45 days for a total 339 hours and 25 minutes or an average of 7 hours and 33 minutes.</p> <p>In 2008 (not an election year) it sat 43 days for a total 504 hours and 59 minutes or 11 hours and 44 minutes on average, whereas in 1994 (also not an election year) it sat 52 days for a total of 447 hours and 56 minutes or 8 hours and 18 minutes a day.</p>								

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<p>16. RESOURCES OF THE PARLIAMENT</p> <p>16.1 Parliamentary Budget Office</p> <p>A Parliamentary Budget Office be established, based in the Parliamentary Library, to provide independent costings, fiscal analysis and research to all Members of parliament, especially non-government Members.</p> <p>The structure, resourcing and protocols for such an Office be the subject of a decision by a special committee of the Parliament which is truly representative of the Parliament.</p>		Material difference	A Parliamentary Budget Office has not been canvassed in Queensland.	
<p>16.2 External review of staffing levels within the Department of the House of Representatives committee Office</p> <p>The Speaker will arrange for an external review of staffing levels within the Department of the House of Representatives Committee Office and the Parliamentary Library.</p> <p>This will incorporate a work analysis to determine the nature and level of secretariat support necessary for the ongoing inquiry work of committees, to ensure that the House committee system is supported by an adequate number of appropriately qualified staff.</p>		Able to occur	<p>The Parliamentary Service conducts regular reviews of all service areas.</p> <p>The Committee Office was reviewed externally in 2001 and 2008.</p> <p>The Parliamentary Library was last reviewed in about 2005.</p> <p>The current review of the committee system may result in the need for review of the committee office and other affected areas.</p>	

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<p>16.3 Establishment of a representative House Committee on Appropriations and Staffing</p> <p>A House Committee on Appropriations and Staffing be established, chaired by the Speaker, to make recommendations to the House on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> estimates of the funding required for the operation of the Department of the House of Representatives; such estimates, once agreed by the House, are to be conveyed by the Speaker to the Minister for Finance and Deregulation for consideration and approval; proposals for changes to the administrative structure of, or service provision by, the Department of the House of Representatives; administration and funding of security measures affecting the House; any other matters of finance or services referred to it by the Speaker or the House; and the Liaison Committee of Chairs and Deputy Chairs have a more active role in monitoring the resources available to committees, with the Chair to report to the House Committee on Appropriations and Staffing on committee activities and resource levels. 		Material difference	The Queensland Parliament has a Speaker's Advisory Committee which in the 53rd Parliament meets regularly.	
<p>16.4 Allocation of teleconferencing and videoconferencing facilities</p> <p>The Leader of the House, with the Speaker will investigate the adequacy of teleconferencing and videoconferencing facilities available to committees; and consideration of any upgrades or additional facilities required to meet current and anticipated future demand from committees.</p>		Material difference	There are no videoconferencing facilities in the parliamentary precinct.	
<p>17. PAIRING VOTES</p> <p>17.1 Pairing arrangements for all Members</p> <p>Additional mechanisms will be considered that responsibly deal with essential absences by Members from the House, including "pairs".</p> <p>The Government and Opposition will guarantee a "pair" to non-aligned Members providing there are reasonable grounds.</p> <p>These arrangements may be similar to those that currently occur between the Whips in the Senate.</p>		Material difference	There is no formal pairing system in place in the Queensland Parliament at this time. Pairing agreements have been in operation in previous Parliaments.	

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENT- AGREEMENT FOR A BETTER PARLIAMENT - PARLIAMENTARY REFORM	FURTHER EXPLANATION	QUEENSLAND COMPARATIVE - SUMMARY	QUEENSLAND COMPARATIVE - DETAIL	COMMENTARY/OBSERVATION
<p>18. PARLIAMENTARY INTEGRITY COMMISSIONER</p> <p>This commissioner would be supervised by the privileges committee from both House and Senate to provide advice, administration and reporting on parliamentary entitlements, investigate and make recommendations to the Privileges Committees on individual investigations, provide advice to parliamentarians on ethical issues and uphold the Parliamentary Code of Conduct and control and maintain the Government's Lobbyists register.</p>		Similar	<p>An Integrity Commissioner has been in existence in Queensland for almost a decade. The responsibilities of the Commissioner have recently been expanded.</p> <p>The Queensland Integrity Commissioner is responsible for providing advice on integrity and ethics issues and for maintaining the lobbyists register.</p> <p>Under the <i>Integrity Act 2009</i>, the Integrity Commissioner can give written advice to Ministers, MPs, senior public servants and others about ethics or integrity issues, including conflicts of interest.</p> <p>The Integrity Commissioner may also meet with and give advice to MPs on ethics and integrity issues in relation to their declarations of financial interests.</p> <p>The Integrity Commissioner is responsible for maintaining the lobbyists register and monitoring compliance by lobbyists and government with the Act and the Lobbyists Code of Conduct.</p> <p>However, Queensland's Integrity Commissioner has no role with respect to parliamentary entitlements or investigations relating to matters of privilege.</p>	
<p>19. ESTABLISH A FORMAL CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEMBERS AND SENATORS</p> <p>A cross-party working group and inquiry process will be established to draft a code of conduct for Members of the House and the Senate. Once established, this code will be overseen by the Privileges committee.</p>		A Code of Conduct in place	The Queensland Parliament has had a <i>Code of Ethical Standards</i> in place since 1999.	
<p>20. REGISTER OF LOBBYISTS</p> <p>Further enhancements to the Register of Lobbyists be examined, including to the online publication of the Register and to place the register under the supervision of the Parliamentary Integrity Commissioner.</p>		A Register in place	The Queensland Government has had a Register of Lobbyists in place since 2009. The register is now the responsibility of the Integrity Commissioner. (See above.)	
<p>21. REVIEW MECHANISM</p> <p>A mechanism will be established to review all standing order and other procedural changes in this agreement and will report following the first session of this Parliament.</p>			The Standing Orders Committee of the 53 rd Parliament has met/corresponded regularly and a number of enhancements to Standing Orders have been made this Parliament.	

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<p>22. OTHER “BETTER GOVERNMENT” IMPROVEMENTS;</p> <p>It is expected, through the life of this Parliament, and with Private Members Bills now having the ability to be voted on, that there will be further steps taken to improve Government in the following way;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open and Accountable Government improvements • Further steps on improving democratic operation of the Parliament • Electoral Funding Improvements • Truth in Political Advertising improvements 				