


ElCE estimates hearing 16/10/12
Tabled by J. Trad MP 6.40pm


Question on Notice
No. 572
Asked on 11 September 2012

MS TRAD ASKED THE MINISTER FOR SCIENCE, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, INNOVATION AND THE ARTS (MS BATES)—

Will the Minister provide details of any funding allocations that have been cut or discontinued to any organisations, program and/or service within their portfolio since 26 March 2012, broken down into (a) organisation, program or service name, (b) purpose of the organisation, program or service, (c) date the funding was/will be cut or discontinued and (d) the amount of funding that has been/will be cut or discontinued?

ANSWER:

It is an unfortunate fact that the former Labor Government left the Queensland Government's finances in a mess.

While Queensland Government debt is already a staggering \$63 billion, the recent Commission of Audit Interim Report highlighted the former government's lack of financial discipline, and predicted that the government's debt would hit \$100 billion in 2018-19 unless urgent action was taken. That would mean an interest bill of \$115 million a week or \$685,000 per hour that all Queenslanders will have to pay back.

Urgent fiscal repair has been necessary just to stabilise current levels of debt, let alone pay off debt and move towards regaining Queensland's AAA Credit Rating. This was because the Queensland Government had a situation where, prior to the 2012-13 budget, the State was spending \$4 billion more per year than was being brought in.

The Government had no choice but to make tough decisions to ensure the financial health of Queensland is restored now and that prosperity is secured for all Queenslanders in the future. To this end the Government has delivered and we will return to a budget surplus in 2013-14, a year earlier than previously forecast.

In addition to achieving this enormous budget turnaround, the Government has also been able to cut the cost of living, reduce payroll tax and stamp duty for business and introduce a new first home buyers grant of \$15,000 when purchasing a newly constructed property. In addition to all of this, we remain the only State Government in Australia to have fully funded the superannuation liabilities of all our public servants.

Unfortunately as part of the fiscal repair process some difficult funding decisions have had to be made. However, while some programs have been discontinued as they didn't reflect the Government's priorities, for the most part the fiscal repair measures have been applied by trimming programs rather than cutting them.

I refer the Honourable Member to the 2012-13 State Budget Papers and Service Delivery Statements which outline the budget for my department. The budget papers were circulated to all Members on budget day and they are also available on the Parliament's website at www.parliament.qld.gov.au or Queensland Treasury's website at www.treasury.qld.gov.au.