



# ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1 ANNUAL REPORT 2008-09

## The Establishment, Function and Powers of the Committee

The Environment and Resources Committee was created by a motion of the House passed on 23 April 2009 to monitor and report on issues in the policy areas of environmental protection, climate change, land management, water security and energy.<sup>1</sup> The motion provides that the committee may:

- investigate any matter referred to it by separate resolution of the Legislative Assembly;
- instigate its own inquiries into legislative and policy issues with respect to the policy areas allocated to it. However, in carrying out its functions, the committees must give priority to those matters referred to it by any separate resolution of the Assembly; and
- seek information from Ministers of the Crown, Directors-General of Government departments, and Commissioners and Chief Executive Officers of Statutory Bodies, regarding current issues in the policy areas referred to it.

The motion also defines the committee's investigative powers and scope. The motion provides that the committee:

- has the power to call for persons, documents and other things;
- does not have the power to investigate and report on events, incidents or operational matters within the policy areas referred to it; and
- does not have the power to investigate and report on any matters that fall within the responsibilities of statutory committees established by the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*, or Estimates Committees and any other parliamentary committee established by resolution of the House.

## Annual Reporting Requirements

The resolution that established the committee also requires it to report on the operations of the committee as soon as practicable after 30 June each year. This report summarises the work of the committee during the period from 23 April to 30 June 2009.

<sup>1</sup> The full motion is reported in the *Record of Proceedings, First Session of the 53<sup>rd</sup> Parliament, Thursday 23 April 2009* at [http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/view/legislativeAssembly/hansard/documents/2009.pdf/2009\\_04\\_23\\_WEEKLY.pdf](http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/view/legislativeAssembly/hansard/documents/2009.pdf/2009_04_23_WEEKLY.pdf)

## Inquiry into Energy Efficiency Improvements

The motion that established the committee also set the terms of reference for the committee's first inquiry into energy efficiency improvements:

That the Environment and Resources Committee investigate the economic and environmental potential provided by energy efficiency improvements for households; communities; industry; and government.

In undertaking this inquiry, consideration should be given to:

- a. the economic and environmental costs and benefits arising from energy efficiency improvements;
- b. potential barriers and impediments to improved energy efficiency;
- c. potential policy options for energy efficiency improvements, with an emphasis on initiatives that are cost effective for individual producers and consumers; and
- d. the role of the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme and other Commonwealth Government initiatives in encouraging energy efficiency.

The committee is to report to the Legislative Assembly by 30 November 2009.

In our first nine weeks, the period from 23 April to 30 June 2009 covered by this report, the committee:

- planned the inquiry into energy efficiency improvements;
- conducted preliminary research for the inquiry;
- received a briefing from the Office of Clean Energy;
- prepared and distributed an issues paper and placed advertisements to encourage submissions;
- published a list of useful hyperlinks to energy efficiency resources available on the Internet;
- wrote to key stakeholders about the inquiry; and
- planned two energy efficiency seminars :
  - 24 July 2009 in Townsville (in partnership with the Townsville Solar City Project); and
  - 7 August 2009 in Brisbane.

Committee staff also liaised with representatives from government agencies and the energy industry with expertise in energy efficiency.

## Committee Meetings

The committee held five private meetings during the reporting period. Table 1 provides a breakdown of Members' attendance at these meetings.

**Table 1: Member attendance at Environment and Resources Committee meetings 2008-09**

	19 May 09	26 May 09	2 June 09	4 June 09	18 June 09
Sullivan	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Seeney	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Attwood	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dowling	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Finn	✓	✓	✓	x	✓
Foley	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ryan	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

## Committee Expenditure

The committee's expenditure for the period from 23 April – 30 June 2009 was \$41,209.98. Table 2 below gives a breakdown of this expenditure.

**Table 2: Breakdown of Environment and Resources Committee expenditure for 2008-09**

Expenditure	\$
Employee expenses	37,882.24
Business travel	1,649.61
Printing and advertising	707.00
Communications	264.76
Minor equipment and maintenance	139.95
Other costs	566.42
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$41,209.98</b>

## Whistleblower Protection Act 1994

During 2008-09, no disclosures were made to the committee in accordance with the *Whistleblowers Protection Act 1994*.

I thank my committee for their contributions and commend this report to the House.



Carryn Sullivan MP  
Chair

September 2009

## Committee Members



**Mrs Carryn Sullivan MP (Chair)**  
Member for Pumicestone



**Mr Jeff Seeney MP (Deputy Chair)**  
Member for Callide



**Mrs Julie Attwood MP**  
Member for Mount Ommaney



**Mr Peter Dowling MP**  
Member for Redlands



**Mr Simon Finn MP**  
Member for Yeerongpilly



**Mr Chris Foley MP**  
Member for Maryborough



**Mr Mark Ryan MP**  
Member for Morayfield

## Secretariat

Mr Rob Hansen, Research Director

Ms Rachelle Stacey, Principal Research Officer

Ms Maureen Coorey, Principal Research Officer

Ms Carolyn Heffernan, Executive Assistant

## Committee Contact Details

Phone: (07) 3406 7908  
1800 504 022 (callers outside Brisbane)

Fax: (07) 3406 7070

Email: [erc@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:erc@parliament.qld.gov.au)

For more detailed information on the work of the committee, including copies of any documents tabled and information on current inquiries, visit the committee's website at: [www.parliament.qld.gov.au/erc](http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/erc)

## Email Updates

To receive regular email updates about the committee's activities, send an email to [erc@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:erc@parliament.qld.gov.au) with 'subscribe' in the subject line.