



# ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2009-2010 REPORT NO. 3 – OCTOBER 2010

## Introduction

This report summarises the work of the Environment and Resources Committee during 2009-2010. For more detailed information on the committee's inquiries, visit the committee's Internet site at:

[www.parliament.qld.gov.au/erc](http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/erc)

## The Environment and Resources Committee

The Environment and Resources Committee is a select committee of the 53<sup>rd</sup> Queensland Parliament established by a motion of the House on 23 April 2009. The role of the committee is to monitor and report on environmental protection; climate change; land management; water security; and energy.

During the year, the committee completed its first inquiry into energy efficiency improvements, and commenced a second into growing Queensland's renewable energy electricity sector.

## Inquiry into Energy Efficiency Improvements

The motion that established the committee included the terms of reference for the committee's first inquiry. The committee was required to investigate the economic and environmental potential provided by energy efficiency improvements for households; communities; industry; and government. In undertaking this inquiry, the committee considered:

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

The committee's inquiry process included the release of an issues paper, a public submissions process, public forums held in Townsville and Brisbane and two public hearings at Parliament House in Brisbane.

The committee found that energy efficiency represents a sound investment for residents, businesses, communities and government given Queensland's high energy intensity and commitment to achieving significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. Potentially half of the savings in greenhouse gases that will be required to meet targets supported by the Federal and Queensland Governments could be achieved through energy efficiency improvements. Despite the sound arguments, there is a considerable gap between what could potentially be achieved and what is actually implemented to improve energy efficiency.

In its report, *Energy Efficiency: Queensland's First Energy Resource*, tabled on 25 February 2010, the committee made 18 recommendations to assist Queenslanders to implement energy efficiency improvements. These recommendations include:

- Acknowledging that energy efficiency is Queensland's first energy resource;
- Funding energy efficiency improvements ahead of other energy projects to meet Queensland's future energy needs, including renewable energy;
- Subjecting all the government's major energy efficiency programs and initiatives to external review to ensure they are working optimally, and reporting the findings to Parliament;
- Support and assistance for low-income households to implement energy efficiency improvements;
- Examination of the potential benefits for Queensland of utilising distributed generation; and
- Consideration of a white certificate scheme for Queensland consistent with schemes operating in other states, though, reflecting Queensland conditions, and canvassing a national scheme through the Ministerial Council on Energy.

The committee also made recommendations about the scope and form of the Queensland Energy Management Plan that the government is developing as the state's future energy efficiency strategy.

## Inquiry into Growing Queensland's Renewable Energy Electricity Sector

On 21 May 2010 the committee commenced its second inquiry with the release of Issues Paper No. 2, *Growing Queensland's Renewable Energy Electricity Sector*. This inquiry will investigate the opportunities and challenges for the Queensland Government associated with increasing the proportion of electricity generated from renewable energy sources in Queensland. Specifically, the committee will consider:

- the value for money from the Queensland Government's investments in renewable energy projects for electricity generation;
- whether the Queensland Government should adopt a target for increasing the proportion of the state's electricity generated from renewable energy sources, and if so, what form the target should take; and
- actions the Queensland Government should take to encourage investment by government-owned energy companies and the private sector in producing more electricity from renewable energy sources.

The committee visited New Zealand in June 2010 as part of the inquiry. The committee received expert briefings, and inspected hydro, geothermal and wind power stations. The committee also met with researchers developing systems to harness wave energy to produce electricity. The committee proposes to report on this inquiry in November 2010.

### Meeting Attendance

Table 1 shows the records of attendance by committee members at their 19 private meetings during 2009-10.

Table 1: Meeting attendance 2009-10

Date	Sullivan	Attwood	Dowling	Finn	Foley	Ryan	Seeneey
15 Jul 2009	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗
04 Aug 2009	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
18 Aug 2009	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
01 Sep 2009	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗
11 Sep 2009	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗
15 Sep 2009	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓
06 Oct 2009	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
08 Oct 2009	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
27 Oct 2009	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
10 Nov 2009	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
24 Nov 2009	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
09 Feb 2010	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓
23 Feb 2010	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
09 Mar 2010	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
25 Mar 2010	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
13 Apr 2010	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
11 May 2010	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
20 May 2010	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓
08 Jun 2010	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

## Committee Expenditure and Revenue

The committee's expenditure for the 2009-10 year was \$234,262.93. Table 2 below provides a breakdown.

Table 2: Committee expenditure for 2009-10

Item	\$
Employee expenses	200,202.95
Travel expenses	25,718.31
Printing	1,874.00
Business advertising	793.58
Communications	1530.18
Hospitality	4143.91
<b>Expenditure Total</b>	<b>\$234,262.93</b>

### Whistleblower Protection Act 1994

No disclosures were made to the committee during 2009-10 in accordance with the *Whistleblowers Protection Act 1994*.



Carryn Sullivan MP, Chair

October 2010

### Committee Members



Mrs Carryn Sullivan MP (Chair)

Member for Pumicestone



Mr Jeff Seeneey 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

Research Director, Mr Rob Hansen  
Principal Research Officer (shared position)  
Ms Rachelle Stacey (3.5 days/week)  
Ms Maureen Coorey (1 day/week)  
Ms Carolyn Heffernan, Executive Assistant

### Committee Contact Details

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