



Chairperson of the Committee of the Legislative Assembly Parliament of Queensland

Media Statement

Thursday 16 June 2011

Historic parliamentary committee reforms implemented today

Historic reforms of the Queensland Parliament's Committee System were approved by the Legislative Assembly today.

Hon Judy Spence MP said that today represents another significant step in implementing the reforms recommended by the Committee System Review Committee in December 2010.

Ms Spence introduced amendments to *Standing Orders* that included the establishment of a portfolio based committee system which were adopted by Parliament this morning.

"Seven new portfolio committees will replace the previous committee system that has operated since 1994. These new committees will cover the field of the areas of government responsibility and will improve how the Parliament scrutinises proposed legislation and executive action" Ms Spence said.

For the first time legislation will be referred to a committee for consideration before it is debated and passed in the House.

The new committee system is expected to enhance the process of public consultation of Bills that are before the House. The portfolio committees examination of proposed legislation could involve calling for public submissions, holding hearings and engaging expert advice on Bills.

"The new portfolio committees will report back to the House and may recommend amendments to the Bill prior to the final consideration of Bills in detail by the House". Ms Spence said.

The reforms have their genesis from the Government's release of a discussion paper on Integrity and Accountability in Queensland in August 2009. This process in turn led to the bipartisan review of the parliamentary committee system by the Parliament's Committee System Review Committee in 2010 which Ms Spence chaired.

The changes to the Standing Orders also includes reforms to the Budget Estimates committee process.

The changes to the Budget Estimates process include allowing Chief Executive Officers to be directly questioned, increasing the time allowed for questioning, removing the previous rigid time restrictions.

"Estimates committees will now be able to directly question Chief Executive Officers of Departments and Statutory Authorities," Ms Spence said.

"There will be more time allocated to each Estimates committee hearing which will now run from 9am to 9.30pm as well as a more free flowing line of questioning allowed which should make it a more efficient and accountable process"

"I look forward to Members of Parliament becoming more specialised in their understandings of particular government portfolios now that the portfolio committees will examine the legislation, public accounts, public works as well as budget estimates of each portfolio" Ms Spence said.

For more information contact – Judy Spence 0407 766751

Further Information:

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES, THEIR AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR OVERSIGHT

Portfolio Committee	Area of Responsibility	Ministers	Oversight Responsibility
Finance and Administration Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Premier and Cabinet • Reconstruction • Treasury • Finance • Arts • Public Works & IT 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Premier and Minister for Reconstruction 2. Treasurer and Minister for State Development and Trade 3. Minister for Finance and The Arts 4. Minister for Government Services, Building Industry and Information and Communication Technology 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Auditor-General 2. Integrity Commissioner
Legal Affairs, Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attorney-General and Justice (excluding Industrial Relations) • Fair Trading • Police • Community Safety 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Deputy Premier and Attorney-General, Minister for Local Government and Special Minister of State 2. Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Electoral Commissioner 2. Information Commissioner 3. Ombudsman
Industry, Education, Training and Industrial Relations Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism • Manufacturing • Small Business • State Development and Trade • Coordinator-General • Education • Employment • Skills & Training • Workplace Health and safety • Industrial Relations • Retail 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Treasurer and Minister for State Development and Trade (2nd committee) 2. Minister for Education and Industrial Relations 3. Minister for Employment, Skills and Mining 4. Minister for Tourism, Manufacturing and Small Business 	
Environment, Agriculture, Resources and Energy Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food • Agriculture • Mines • Energy • Water • Natural Resource Management • Environment • Fisheries 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Minister for Energy and Water Utilities 2. Minister for Main Roads, Fisheries and Marine Infrastructure 3. Minister for Agriculture, Food and Regional Economies 4. Minister for Employment, Skills and Mining (2nd committee) 5. Minister for Environment and Resource Management 	
Community Affairs Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Safety • Youth Justice • Community Services • Multicultural Affairs • Housing • Women 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Minister for Transport and Multicultural Affairs 2. Minister for Child Safety and Minister for Sport 3. Minister for Community Services and Housing and Minister for Women 4. Minister for Disability Services, 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Family Responsibilities Commission 2. Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sport • Aboriginal Affairs 	Mental Health and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships	
Health and Disabilities Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health • Mental Health • Disabilities 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Minister for Health 2. Minister for Disability Services, Mental Health and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnership (2nd committee) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Health Quality and Complaints Commission
Transport, Local Government and Infrastructure Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport • Main Roads • Marine Infrastructure • Infrastructure • Local Government • Building Industry 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Deputy Premier and Attorney-General, Minister for Local Government and Special Minister of State (2nd committee) 2. Minister for Main Roads, Fisheries and Marine Infrastructure (2nd committee) 3. Minister for Transport and Multicultural Affairs (2nd committee) 4. Minister for Government Services, Building Industry and Communication Technology (2nd committee) 	