



# **ESTIMATES COMMITTEE D**

## **REPORT TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF QUEENSLAND**

**Department of Tourism, Sport and Racing  
Department of Family Services and Aboriginal and Islander Affairs  
Department of Environment and Heritage**

## ESTIMATES COMMITTEE D

**CHAIRPERSON:**

Mr Rod Welford MLA  
(Member for Everton)

**DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON:**

Dr Lesley Clark MLA  
(Member for Barron River)

**MEMBERS:**

Mr Brian Littleproud MLA  
(Member for Western Downs)

Mrs Merri Rose MLA  
(Member for Currumbin)

Mr Doug Slack MLA  
(Member for Burnett)

Mr John Szczerbanik MLA  
(Member for Albert)

Mr Michael Veivers MLA  
(Member for Southport)

**RESEARCH DIRECTOR:**

Mr Robert Ahern

**RESEARCH OFFICER:**

Ms Sarah Reilly

LAI D UPON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE

TABLE OF THE PARLIAMENT



## ESTIMATES COMMITTEE D

REPORT TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF QUEENSLAND

June 1994

## CONTENTS

	Page
REPORT TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY .....	1
Introduction .....	1
Examination of the Proposed Expenditure .....	2
Resolution .....	6
Observations on the Estimates Process .....	6
Acknowledgments .....	7
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS .....	8
Minutes of Meeting held on 30 May 1994 .....	8
Minutes of Meeting held on 9 June 1994 .....	10
Minutes of Meeting held on 16 June 1994 .....	12
Minutes of Meeting held on 20 June 1994 .....	14

## *APPENDICES*

*A - Record of Attendance at Committee Meetings*

---

## REPORT TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

### 1 Introduction

1.1 The Legislative Assembly on 28 April 1994 appointed six Estimates Committees to inquire into the estimates of expenditure contained in the *Appropriation Bill 1994* and the *Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 1994*.

1.2 Under the Sessional Orders adopted by the Assembly on that day, this Committee had responsibility to examine the proposed expenditure of the organisational units within the following Ministerial portfolios:

- Tourism, Sport and Racing
- Family Services and Aboriginal and Islander Affairs
- Environment and Heritage

1.3 All Members of the Committee agreed before the hearing that they would fully cooperate with each other to ensure the success of the process. The procedures adopted by the Committee were:

- (a) that the starting time for questioning Ministers would be set regardless of an early finish to the inquiry concerning the previous portfolio;
- (b) that Members of the Committee confine their questions to matters which relate to proposed estimates of expenditure;
- (c) that where possible, if Members anticipated any of their questions were likely to be taken on notice they should be provided to the Minister concerned prior to the hearing;
- (d) that the Committee deal with each Department according to program areas and notify the Minister of this order at the beginning of the hearing; and
- (e) copies of research material prepared by the Committee's staff for the purpose of analysing departments' expenditure was furnished to the relevant Ministers the day before the hearing.

- 1.4 Where time was left at the conclusion of the Government Members' final twenty minute block of questions, the Chair exercised a discretion to allocate this time to the Opposition Members of the Committee for further questioning.
- 1.5 The Sessional Orders required that the Committee meet in public session on Wednesday 15 June 1994 to begin its examination. At 11:30 am on that day the Chair, Mr Rod Welford, opened the hearing and made an introductory statement concerning the Committee's agreed approach to its examination of the proposed expenditure.
- 1.6 Copies of minutes of the Committee's meetings are appended to this report. The Hansard report of the evidence taken by the Committee has been published separately.

## 2 Examination of the Proposed Expenditure

### Tourism, Sport and Racing

- 2.1 The Committee examined proposed expenditure of \$117,660,000 for organisational units in the Tourism, Sport and Racing portfolio. In attendance was the Hon. R. Gibbs, Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing, accompanied by the following officers:

Mr David Williams, Director-General

Mr Mark Peters, Executive Director (Policy and Programs Division)

Mr Peter Phair, Executive Director (Regional and Corporate Services Division)

Mr Peter Richardson, Manager Financial Services Unit

Mr Laurie Longland, Executive Director (Regional and Corporate Services Division)

Dr Bob Mason, Director (Racing Services)

Mr Ken Rosebery, Chief Executive Officer, Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation

- 2.2 The witnesses were examined by the Committee, and by leave of the Committee Mr G Healy MLA and Mrs J Gamin MLA also asked questions.
- 2.3 The Committee adjourned at 12:54 pm and resumed at 2:02 pm.

- 
- 2.4 The Committee continued its examination until 3:31 pm when it adjourned and the witnesses withdrew.
- 2.5 During this first period 104 questions were asked, 76 of these were from Opposition Members. Seven of these were placed on notice and all have subsequently been responded to.
- 2.6 The sitting resumed at 3:38 pm with an examination of the proposed expenditure of the Family Services and Aboriginal and Islander Affairs portfolio.

### **Family Services and Aboriginal and Islander Affairs**

- 2.7 The Committee examined the proposed expenditure of \$432,130,000 for organisational units in the Family Services and Aboriginal and Islander Affairs portfolio. In attendance was the Hon. A. Warner, Minister for Family Services and Aboriginal and Islander Affairs, accompanied by the following officers:

Ms Ruth Matchett, Director-General

Mr Tony Stevenson, Office of the Director-General

Mr Jim Wauchope, Acting Divisional Head, Aboriginal and Islander Affairs

Ms Jan Williams, Divisional Head, Community Services Development

Mr Tim Gleeson, Assistant Divisional Head, Planning and Policy Co-ordination Branch, Community Services Development

Mr Russell Loos, Financial Co-ordinator, Community Services Development

Mr Jeff Whalan, Divisional Head, Intellectual Disability Services

Mr John Parisi, Resource Management Co-ordinator, Intellectual Disability Services

Ms Helen Twohill, Divisional Head, Protective Services and Juvenile Justice

Ms Majella Ryan, A/Assistant Divisional Head, Juvenile Justice, Protective Services and Juvenile Justice

Ms Carol Peltola, Assistant Divisional Head, Protective Services, Protective Services and Juvenile Justice

Mr Gary Clarke, Director Finance and Organisational Services

Ms Di Platz, A/Manager, Budget Section, Finance Branch, Finance and Organisational Services

Ms Carmel Finn, Director, Information Services

Mr Uri Thernal, Director, Bureau of Ethnic Affairs

- 2.8 The Committee examined the witnesses.
- 2.9 The Committee concluded its examination and adjourned at 6:35 pm and the witnesses withdrew. There were 107 questions asked during this period, all but 34 from Opposition Members of the Committee. No questions were taken on notice.
- 2.10 The sitting resumed at 7:30 pm with an examination of the proposed expenditure of the Environment and Heritage portfolio.

### **Environment and Heritage**

- 2.11 The Committee examined the proposed expenditure of \$136,725,000 for organisational units in the Environment and Heritage portfolio. In attendance was the Hon. M. Robson, Minister for Environment and Heritage, accompanied by the following officers:

Ms Liz Bourne, Ministerial Policy Adviser  
Mr Damian McGreevy, Senior Ministerial Policy Adviser  
Mr Barton Green, Ministerial Media Adviser  
Dr Craig Emerson, Director-General  
Mr Tom Tolhurst, Deputy Director-General  
Mr Graham Inglis, Cabinet Legislation and Liaison Officer  
Mr Rod Arnott, Director of Corporate Services  
Mr Paul Rafter, Executive Manager, Financial Services Branch  
Mr Davis Robertson, Management Accountant  
Dr Ian Wilson, Director, Environment Planning Branch  
Mr David Miles, Director, Waste Management Branch  
Mr Les Barkla, Acting Manager (Administration), Division of Environment  
Dr Peter Nimmo, Director, Pollution Management Branch  
Mr John Gilmour, Executive Director (Environment)  
Mr Jon Womersley, Director, Cultural Heritage Branch  
Mr Bruce Gall, Director, Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service  
Mr Chris Pattearson, Director, Coastal Management Branch  
Mr Paul Sattler, Acting Director, Conservation Strategy Branch  
Mr Bill Dixon, Manager, Work and Labour Market Program Unit  
Mr Clive Hughes, Manager (Administration), Division of Conservation  
Mr Ross Rolfe, Executive Director (Conservation)  
Mr Des Boyland, Regional Director (Southeastern)



2.12 The Committee examined the witnesses.

Dissent from ruling of the Chair

2.13 During the hearing the Minister disputed the relevance of a question from Mr Slack MLA:

*"Mr SLACK: Could you give me a break-up of those rangers who have been employed by the Department of Environment and Heritage for more than three years?"*

*Ms ROBSON: I am trying to debate with you the forward Estimates for 1994/95 — what we are doing now and what our planning for future staff will be. I have given you those figures, and some questions on notice will indicate the answers to some questions, but I will not undertake an historical analysis of 500-odd staff for you."*

2.14 The Chair then asked the Minister if she might take the question on notice, but the Minister declined. After further discussion the Chair ruled that the question was unreasonable. Mr B Littleproud then moved - *"That the Chairman's ruling be dissented from"*.

2.15 The sitting adjourned at 8:52 pm to continue debate in camera. The question *"That the Chairman's ruling be dissented from"* was put to the vote and resolved in the negative.

Ayes

Mr B Littleproud

Mr D Slack

Mr M Veivers

Noes

Mr R Welford

Dr L Clark

Ms M Rose

Mr J Szczerbanik

2.16 The Committee resumed its examination of witnesses at 9:01 pm.

2.17 The Committee concluded its examination and adjourned at 10:29 pm and the witnesses withdrew.

2.18 During this period Committee Members were able to put 108 questions to the Minister, 30 of these were from Government party Members. Five questions were placed on notice and the answers provided will be tabled with this Report.

### 3 Resolution

- 3.1 The Sessional Orders restrict Committee Members to questioning a Minister on proposed expenditure. Accordingly Members are not permitted to debate the merits of the administration of a portfolio. It was evident that some Members did have reservations about the administration of portfolios but these concerns can be debated in the Committee of the Whole. Notwithstanding these reservations the Committee has reached a unanimous resolution on the question for its consideration.
- 3.2 **The Committee agrees to the proposed expenditures in the Appropriation Bill 1994 for the organisational units referred to it under the Sessional Orders of 28 May 1994.**

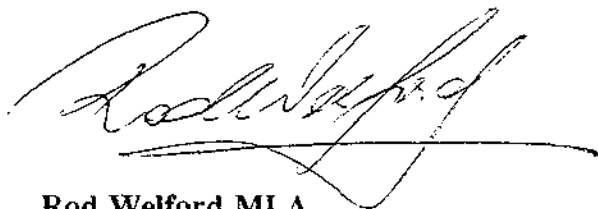
### 4 Observations on the Estimates Process

- 4.1 The Committee would like to take this opportunity to record its observations on the process for the benefit of future committees.
- 4.2 During the examination of the proposed expenditure for the Department of Environment and Heritage it became apparent to the Committee that there was a misunderstanding with the Minister regarding the Committee's intention to seek details on regional issues. Having now raised the issue, the Committee is satisfied that misunderstandings of this nature will not occur in the future.
- 4.3 The Committee is also concerned that in some cases records of functional line items within departments were not available to the Committee, even when this information was requested on notice. The Committee acknowledges that this was the first year of the estimates process and that it was a learning experience for everyone involved. Once again the Committee is satisfied that in future Ministers will be better prepared for Members' questions on such issues.
- 4.4 The Committee considers that the three minutes allowed for Ministers to answer questions was more than sufficient, but notes that Ministers may have felt obliged to give additional information even when this may not always have been necessary. Again, the Committee is aware that these estimates hearings were a learning experience. As the estimate's process develops, it is likely that Ministers will become more experienced at answering questions. The Committee is hopeful that answers given will be more specific and succinct.

- 4.5 Committee Members who were shadow ministers but whose respective departments were not then being examined felt they could have participated more actively in the questioning. Future estimate's hearings will no doubt offer opposition committee members the opportunity to share amongst themselves and other non-committee members the responsibility for examining Ministers.
- 4.6 In such cases it may be appropriate for those Members not participating to leave the hearing. Opposition Members raised the possibility of Members having no further questions affecting a particular department being able to absent themselves from the hearing for certain periods of time. Although, subject to a quorum being maintained, no Member is bound to be present at all stages of the hearing. Any temporary absence by a Member may not be practical as there is no established method to recall them; such as ringing the bells as for divisions in the Assembly. It may be appropriate that there be some method of recalling Members to a committee hearing if they are needed during a period of their absence, for example, for consideration of a ruling by the Chair.
- 4.7 The Committee appreciated the latitude which Ministers gave to public officials to answer detailed questions on their behalf, and considers that in this regard the current Sessional Orders are acceptable.

## 5 Acknowledgments

- 5.1 The Committee takes this opportunity to express its appreciation for the level of cooperation and assistance afforded to it by the various Ministers and members of their staff. The Committee wishes to acknowledge the staff of the committee secretariat for their valuable support and assistance during the Estimates process.



**Rod Welford MLA**  
Chairman

---

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

### Minutes of Meeting held on 30 May 1994

at 1.00 p.m. in Room 5.04  
Parliamentary Annexe, Brisbane

1. **Present:** Mr B Littleproud MLA  
Ms M Rose MLA  
Mr D Slack MLA  
Mr J Szczerbanik MLA  
Mr R Welford MLA

**Apologies:** Dr L Clark MLA  
Mr M Veivers MLA

**In Attendance:**

Mr B Ahern, Research Director  
Ms S Reilly, Research Officer

2. **Election of Chair**

As the senior Member of the Committee, Mr Littleproud proceeded to the election of the Chair. Mr Welford was nominated by Mr Slack and seconded by Ms Rose.

There being no further nominations, Mr Welford was declared elected and took the Chair.

3. **Election of Deputy Chair**

Before proceeding to the election of the Deputy Chair, the Opposition Members indicated that they would decline nomination for the Deputy Chair position.

The Chair then proceeded to the election of the Deputy Chair.

Dr Clark was nominated by Ms Rose. There being no further nominations, Dr Clark was declared elected.

4. **General Business**

The Committee discussed procedural matters concerning the Public Hearing of June 15, 1994.

5. **Time and Date of Next Meeting**

The Committee agreed that it would next meet at Parliament House on 9 June 1994 at 2.00 p.m. in Room 5.04.

6. **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the Committee adjourned at 1.10 p.m.

**Minutes of Meeting held on 9 June 1994**  
**at 3.00 p.m. in Room 5.04**  
**Parliamentary Annexe, Brisbane**

1. **Present:** Dr L Clark MLA  
Mr B Littleproud MLA  
Ms M Rose MLA  
Mr D Slack MLA  
Mr J Szczerbanik MLA  
Mr M Veivers MLA  
Mr R Welford MLA

**In Attendance:**

Mr B Ahern, Research Director  
Ms S Reilly, Research Officer

2. **Confirmation of Minutes of previous meeting**

On the motion of Mr Littleproud, seconded by Ms Rose, the Minutes of the meeting held on 30 May 1994 were confirmed.

3. **Preparation for public hearing**

The Committee discussed procedures for the public hearing to be held on 15 June 1994.

It was agreed that the time allocated for Departments be set out as:

- Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing (3 hrs)
- Minister for Family Services and Aboriginal and Islander Affairs (3 hrs)
- Minister for Environment and Heritage (3 hrs)

and that the starting times for questioning of Ministers do not change regardless of the finishing time of the previous portfolio.

It was also agreed that where Members anticipate one of their questions is likely to go on notice they should give the question to the Research Director by 12.00 pm, Tuesday 14 June, who will forward it to the relevant Minister. This will enable the question to be answered at the hearing, rather than the next day. It was emphasised that this procedure was optional.

4. **Time and Date of Next Meeting**

The Committee agreed that it would next meet at Parliament House on Thursday 16 June 1994 at 11.30 am in Room 5.04.

6. **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the Committee adjourned at 3.40 p.m.

**Minutes of Meeting held on 16 June 1994**  
**at 11.30 am in Room 5.04**  
**Parliamentary Annexe, Brisbane**

1. **Present:** Dr L Clark MLA  
Mr B Littleproud MLA  
Ms M Rose MLA  
Mr D Slack MLA  
Mr J Szczurbanik MLA  
Mr M Veivers MLA  
Mr R Welford MLA

**In Attendance:**

Mr B Ahern, Research Director  
Ms S Reilly, Research Officer

2. **Confirmation of Minutes of previous meeting**

On the motion of Mr Veivers, seconded by Ms Rose, the Minutes of the meeting held on 9 June 1994 were confirmed.

3. **Discussion of Draft Report**

The Committee discussed the public hearing of 15 June 1994 and the draft report for Estimates Committee D.

Mr Veivers requested that it be put on record that he and the Opposition Members of the Committee appreciated the Chair allowing them extra time for questioning at the completion of Government questions.



**4. Time and Date of Next Meeting**

The Committee agreed that it would next meet at Parliament House on Monday 20 June 1994 at 4.00 pm in Room B27.

**5. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the Committee adjourned at 12.00 p.m.

**Minutes of Meeting held on 20 June 1994**  
**at 4.00 pm in Room B27**  
**Parliament House, Brisbane**

1. **Present:** Dr L Clark MLA  
Mr B Littleproud MLA  
Ms M Rose MLA  
Mr D Slack MLA  
Mr J Szczerbanik MLA  
Mr R Welford MLA

**In Attendance:**

Mr B Ahern, Research Director  
Ms S Reilly, Research Officer

- Apologies:** Mr M Veivers MLA

2. **Confirmation of Minutes of previous meeting**

On the motion of Dr Clark, seconded by Mr Littleproud, the Minutes of the meeting held on 16 June 1994 were confirmed.

3. **Resolution to approve Departmental Estimates**

On the motion of Mr Littleproud, seconded by Mr Szczerbanik, it was resolved that the proposed expenditures in the Appropriation Bill 1994 for the organisational units referred to the Committee under the Sessional Orders of 28 May 1994 be agreed to.

4. **Adoption of Estimates Committee D Report No.1**

*Paragraphs 1.1 - 2.17* Question put that the paragraphs do stand as part of the Report; Resolved in the affirmative.

*Paragraph 2.18* as amended. Question put that the paragraph does stand as part of the Report; Resolved in the affirmative.

*Paragraph 3.1* Question put that the paragraph does stand as part of the Report; Resolved in the affirmative.

*Paragraph 3.2* as amended. Question put that the paragraph does stand as part of the Report.

*Paragraph 4.1 - 5.1* Question put that the paragraphs do stand as part of the Report.

*Appendix A* as amended. Question put that the paragraph does stand as part of the Report.

## 5. **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the Committee adjourned at 4.30 p.m.

**APPENDIX A - RECORD OF ATTENDANCE AT COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Reported in accordance with Standing Order 198 of the *Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Assembly*.

Meeting Date	Clark	Littleproud	Rose	Slack	Szczerbanik	Veivers	Welford
30 May 1994	—	✓	✓	✓	✓	—	✓
9 June 1994	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
15 June 1994	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
16 June 1994	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
20 June 1994	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	—	✓