



# **ESTIMATES COMMITTEE 'E'**

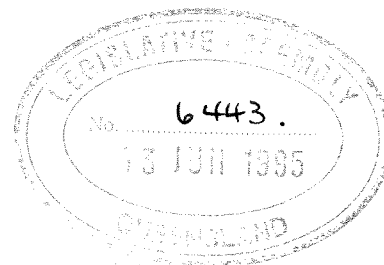
## **REPORT TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF QUEENSLAND**

**Department of Primary Industries  
Department of Minerals and Energy  
Department of Business, Industry and Regional Development**

Estimates Committee 'E'  
Report No. 1  
13 June 1995



LAID UPON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES  
13 JUNE 1995



## **ESTIMATES COMMITTEE 'E'**

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

**13 June 1995**

## **CONTENTS**

	<i>Page No.</i>
<b>INTRODUCTION</b> .....	<b>5</b>
 <b>PORTFOLIOS</b>	
Primary Industries .....	<b>5</b>
Minerals and Energy .....	<b>6</b>
Business, Industry and Regional Development .....	<b>8</b>
 <b>PROCEDURAL MATTERS</b>	
The appearance of Government Owned Corporations before Estimates Committees .....	<b>10</b>
Structure and content of Portfolio Program Statements .....	<b>11</b>
Review of Operational Issues .....	<b>12</b>
 <b>ACKNOWLEDGMENTS</b> .....	<b>12</b>
 <b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b> .....	<b>13</b>
 <b>STATEMENT OF RESERVATION</b>	
 <b>MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS</b>	

## **INTRODUCTION**

On 26 May 1995, the Legislative Assembly referred the expenditure contained in the Appropriation Bill 1995 for the portfolios of Primary Industries, Minerals and Energy and Business, Industry and Regional Development to this Committee for examination and report.

The Committee has considered the estimates utilising the various Budget papers together with the Portfolio Program Statements, Corporate Plans and the Annual Reports for 1993-94 and has received evidence from the Honourable E Casey MLA, the Honourable A McGrady MLA and the Honourable W Pitt MLA as well as officers of the departments and authorities concerned. Copies of the Minutes of Proceedings and the Hansard transcript of the evidence taken by the Committee are being tabled for the information of the Assembly. Written material furnished by departments, in response to questions from Members, is contained in a separate volume entitled Additional information received by the Committee.

The Committee draws the attention of the Legislative Assembly to the following matters of interest which arose during consideration of the estimates.

## **PORTFOLIOS**

### ***Department of Primary Industries***

In 1995-96 the Budget allocation for the department is \$672.9m which is an increase of \$66.8m (11%) over last year's expenditure. The 1995-96 estimate comprises \$491.3m from the Consolidated Fund and \$181.6m from Trust Funds.

The increase in the 1994-95 estimated actual is mainly attributable to abnormal expenditure within the Forestry Fund following the Beerburrum fire and subsequent salvage operation which cost \$10.2m. Most of the increase between the 1994-95 estimated actual and the 1995-96 estimate is for expenditure on new initiatives (\$13.7m), Capital Works Projects (\$28.7m) and carryovers (\$6.9m).

The Minister outlined to the Committee a number of major new initiatives which are aimed at encouraging and facilitating industry restructuring, resource sustainability, water resource development, rural leadership and forest industry development. These initiatives will be ongoing, with a further \$21m to be allocated in 1996-97 and at least \$25m in 1997-98.

The Committee noted the predominance of male SES officers appearing at the hearings for the Department and the Minister for Primary Industries assurance that his department has developed an Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) strategy and management plan which had been endorsed by the Commissioner for Public Sector Equity. In particular, the Minister outlined a number of EEO training initiatives which have been implemented across the Department and in major regional centres and which are specifically aimed at developing leadership and strategic business management skills for specific groups. Additional evidence obtained by the Committee indicates that the Department has few women at senior level (SES, 2 female and 51 male; A08, 2 female and 51 male and A07, 7 female and 64 male). This is a matter which the Committee will take particular interest in during the next estimates process to assess the effectiveness of the EEO strategy.

## *Estimates Committee 'E'*

A number of questions were raised about research, development and extension issues. The Minister provided the following information about the funding arrangements—

<b>Program</b>	<b>Consolidated Fund (Est) 1995/96<sub>1</sub> (\$'000)</b>	<b>% R&amp;D/ % Extension</b>	<b>R&amp;D (\$'000)</b>	<b>Extension (\$'000)</b>
<i>Natural Resource Management</i>	128,857 <sub>2</sub>	30/30	38,657	38,657
<i>Industry Services</i>	125,555	49/30	61,222	37,667
<i>Product Development &amp; Marketing</i>	23,340	9/5	2,101	1,167
<i>Community Services</i>	21,631 <sub>2</sub>	0/35	0	7,571
<i>Forest Production</i>	19,500 <sub>2</sub>	0/0	0 <sub>3</sub>	0 <sub>3</sub>
<i>Water Services</i>	172,413	1/3 <sub>4</sub>	828	2,483
<i>Corporate Management and Support</i>		0/0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>491,296<sub>5</sub></b>		<b>102,808</b> <b>(20.9%)</b>	<b>87,545</b> <b>(17.8%)</b>
			<b>R, D &amp; E</b>	<b>\$190million</b>

*1 Figures 1995/96 Forward Estimates, Departmental Portfolio Program Statements, NRM (p.24), IS(p.55), PD&M (p.66), CS(p.14), FP (p.45), WS (p.75) of PPS.*

*2 Significant input from Forestry Fund*

*3 All research in this Program funded through generated revenues. Extension forms a small (<10%) component of this.*

*4 Percentage relates to base income, excluding capital and specials*

*5 Total Funding Source, Total is \$672million, (p.6 of PPS)*

In response to questions the Minister outlined how research projects were selected and the role of the various industry policy councils in this process.

Information was sought about the level of funding allocated to the Australian Dairy Herd Recording Scheme and the evaluation criteria that had been developed by the department for reviewing the scheme. The Minister indicated that the Department would contribute \$250,000 in 1994-95 towards the joint development costs for this project and there are approximately 5 staff involved in the program. The service, which is now operational, will be fully funded through a fee for service system. The Committee notes that the Department and the Queensland Dairy Industry are jointly developing a business plan to provide for a competitive cost-effective recording service to dairy farmers. The Committee will be interested in the success of this scheme.

A number of questions were raised about the proposed joint venture sharefarming scheme to establish hardwood plantations on private properties. The Minister indicated that a paper outlining the proposed scheme will shortly be distributed to landowners.

### ***Department of Minerals and Energy***

The portfolio of Minerals and Energy is expected to return approximately \$275m in rentals in 1995-96. The budget allocated to the department for 1995-96 is \$172.07m, which includes approximately \$13.5m for new special projects and approximately \$32.4m for ongoing departmental operational costs.

The new special projects allocation includes provision for the implementation of the Energy Efficiency and Alternative Energy Initiatives, as well as for the department's additional environmental responsibilities.

The Committee was provided with information on the Safety in Mines Testing and Research Station Program which researches and implements mining standards in Queensland, including safety in mines and was advised that SIMTARS has a world-wide reputation for excellence in this area. Expert technical and scientific evidence for the Warden's Inquiry into the Moura tragedy was provided by SIMTARS. Following questions from the Committee, the Minister advised that the Inquiry had been an open and independent one, calling on 66 witnesses, (including mine safety experts from overseas) over a period of five months. An amount of \$2.1m was allocated in 1994-95 to cover the cost of the Moura Inquiry.

In relation to the environmental section of the department, the Minister explained the costs associated with the department's additional environmental responsibilities delegated under the Environmental Protection Act. An amount of \$4.97m has been allocated to the environmental section of the Minerals Program and \$316,000 for the environmental area in the Energy Division. The department's environmental program for 1995-96 includes \$500,000 for costs associated with the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*.

In relation to the \$6.5m allocated for rehabilitation of a number of mine sites, the Minister outlined to the Committee the department's emphasis on responsible, sound land-use practices and the government's commitment to approved environmental strategies. However, questions were raised about a carryover amount of \$600,000 for mine site rehabilitation, and about anticipated completion dates for several sites.

In line with environmental management practices, and in order to improve the efficiency of the State's energy system, the department is implementing the Energy Efficiency and Alternative Energy Policy. Through facilities such as the \$500,000 Mobile Advisory Service and the Energy Advisory Centre, the community will receive information about solar energy systems and other initiatives that the Government is funding during 1995-96.

The Committee questioned the basis on which the amount of \$6.5m allocated for the Hot Water Energy Efficiency Scheme had been calculated. The Committee was advised by the Minister that the amount of \$6.5m was an arbitrary "guesstimate" only. As this project involved payments of up to \$80 per household, the Committee emphasised that an effective monitoring process was essential.

Similar concerns were raised in connection with the \$2.9m Domestic Lighting Efficiency Scheme which provides for up to \$15 per household rebate. The Committee was assured that guidelines for both these schemes will be devised prior to their implementation.

The accountability and scrutiny of the newly corporatised Queensland Electricity Industry raised a number of important financial, administrative and procedural questions. The Minister advised the Committee that while the Board of the new Corporation would be responsible for the financial performance of the QEC, he would only be involved at the strategic level. The Minister also told the Committee that, on behalf of the Government, he would still be accountable to the Parliament for the performance of the Corporations and, in keeping with the spirit and purpose of the estimates process, would answer questions relating to their activities. Given that the Corporations must effectively operate commercially but within the constraints of government policy, the Committee sees this as appropriate.

The Committee appreciated the Minister's co-operative approach and hopes that it provides a useful precedent for future years. The Committee also appreciated the expertise and information provided by the Chief Executive Officer of the Queensland Transmission and Supply Corporation. No commercial in confidence issues were discussed.

It was noted by the Committee that details of the electricity tariff equalisation process have yet to be finalised; however the Minister assured the Committee that the government remains committed to the continuation of the electricity tariff equalisation scheme.

The Committee sought clarification of an amount of \$2.05m allocated in the department's Capital Works budget for ongoing work in relation to the taking of the easement for the Eastlink project. Approximately 1,500 to 1,600 hectares of land is required for the easement, and it is planned to spend \$206,000 on surveys during 1995-96. The Minister advised that environmental impact studies and engineering planning studies associated with the acquisition of easements for Eastlink were being funded from the Capital Works Budget. The Minister acknowledged the Committee's interest in the Eastlink development and in possible compensation claims which may arise. The Minister indicated, however, that it was not appropriate for him to furnish details concerning compensation payments in a public forum such as the Estimates Committee hearing.

The Committee was advised of the important role of the recently established Office of the Electricity Regulator. Through a review of electrical workers' safety manuals, development of training videos, the introduction into secondary schools of electrical safety concepts, and a range of other activities, the Office will promote electrical safety and industry operations. With a 1995-96 budget of \$1.84m, and an increase of nine in the staffing of the industry operations group, the Office of the Electrical Regulator is well placed to undertake regulatory functions. Prior to corporatisation of the Electricity Industry, such functions were undertaken by the QEC but were transferred to the Department of Minerals and Energy on 1 January 1995.

#### *Department of Business, Industry and Regional Development*

For the period 1995-96 the department's Budget allocation will be \$93.70m which is slightly less than the 1994-95 Estimated Actual amount of \$96.28m.

The department's key strategies to achieve its aim include—

- servicing the manufacturing sector;
- providing enhanced services to export firms and small to medium-sized enterprises;
- increased incentives for innovation; and
- support of high quality, final stage research and development.

As well as an emphasis on rural and remote areas, a key focus of the department for 1995-96 will be improving the operating environment for small business. The existing National Industry Extension Service infrastructure will receive an \$800,000 Enterprise Improvement Initiative targeted at the building, construction and tourism sectors, as well as at women in business.

The Minister indicated in his evidence that the department would have an increasing emphasis on program evaluation and with a focus on outcomes. The Committee recognises the commitment to providing enhanced management and performance information and looks forward to seeing the results of a number of initiatives which are to be undertaken in the 1995-96 budget. The Committee believes it is essential that departmental activities remain effective and relevant to the needs of clients.

The Committee sought information in relation to the impact, during the next twelve months, of the recommendations of the Hilmer Report in relation to Queensland's electricity, gas, transport, water and rail regimes. The Committee was told that the department is currently devising its guidelines with respect to competition policy. The Committee was also advised that the department has considerably lightened the regulatory burden on business in Queensland.

Evidence was received by the Committee relating to a number of training initiatives for women, such as the Women in Management Program. However, the small number of women in senior and management positions within the department itself was noted. Questions were asked relating to the number of A07 officers, sub-program managers (A08) and senior executive service officers in the Department of Business, Industry and Regional Development. The Committee was told that, as at 31 March 1995, of 13 SES officers, none were women; of 12 sub-program managers, none were women; and at A07 level there were 25 officers, only two were women.

The Committee queried a \$650,000 carryover of funds from 1993-94 and the expected 1994-95 carryover of \$1,280,000 within the Queensland Small Business Corporation in relation to the Business Plus Initiative. The Minister advised the Committee that \$800,000 of this carryover will be allocated to 1995-96 Budget initiatives on enterprise development. These initiatives include implementation of the Marketing Plus Scheme (\$100,000) and enhancements to the National Industry Enterprise Service Program to increase the coverage of small to medium-sized enterprises in key service sectors.

Concern was also expressed regarding the Department's budgeted amount for capital works. Information provided to the Committee showed significant under-spending of budgeted allocations over a number of years. Questions were raised concerning carryovers of approximately \$10m in 1994-95, \$11m in 1993-94, \$11m in 1992-93 and \$7m in 1991-92. The Committee was advised that bad weather, the need to formulate a business plan, changed building requirements and delays in Commonwealth processing of funding accounted for some of the carryovers. The Committee noted that the carryover of funds was particularly apparent in relation to the development of Industrial Estates.

Clarification was sought concerning the Capital Works Budget of \$15.56m. Of this amount, \$13.26m (or 85 per cent of the total) is allocated to projects in and around Brisbane. While only approximately 35 per cent of Queensland's business is located in Brisbane, the expenditure of 85 per cent of available funds in 1995-96 in the metropolitan area was justified, the Committee was told, due to pressure currently being placed on the south east area of the State.

The operation of the Industry Search and Opportunities Office, whose purpose is to enhance receptiveness of businesses and organisations to existing or potential products of local industry, was also raised. It was explained to the Committee that the company, which receives \$700,000 through the department is fully funded but operates as a private company. Although it does not produce an annual report, its performance is included in the Annual Report of the Department, and the ISO complies with company law.



Questions were raised concerning the future role of the Queensland Small Business Corporation in light of the report from the Public Sector Management Commission which recommended the disbanding of the Corporation. It was noted also that a review of the *Queensland Small Business Corporation Act*, to examine the effectiveness and the need for continuation of the Corporation, is required to commence by 30 June 1995, with a report to be tabled in Parliament by 30 September 1995. Referring to the December 1993 PSMC program evaluation of the QSBC, the Minister outlined several crucial recommendations from the Commission's report which have now been implemented to ensure the Corporation's effectiveness. These included the co-location of the QSBC with the Department of Business, Industry and Regional Development at 111 George Street and the establishment of a Policy and Research Unit within the QSBC. Funding for the QSBC in 1995-96 is \$6.4m. The Minister placed on record the Government's clear commitment to the continuation of the Queensland Small Business Corporation but assured the Committee he was in no way pre-empting the outcome of the review which he will shortly be announcing.

### ***POTENTIAL IMPROVEMENTS TO THE ESTIMATES COMMITTEE SCRUTINY PROCESS***

#### ***The appearance of Government Owned Corporations (GOCs) before Estimates Committees***

The Department of Primary Industries and Department of Minerals and Energy each include a number of GOCs. The basis on which these agencies are subject to scrutiny by Estimates Committees is a matter of some discussion.

Broadly, the following requirements need to be met before a GOC can be the subject of Estimates Committees questions—

- Monies are appropriated through the Appropriation Bill being considered; and
- Community service obligations (CSOs) are funded direct from the Budget or in a way which substitutes for direct budget funding.

This issue arose during consideration of the Minerals and Energy portfolio when Mr Gilmore asked that the Queensland Transmission and Supply Corporation, AUSTA, and the State Gas Pipeline Unit, be represented at the Committee's hearings. With the agreement of the Minister they were represented and the Committee is grateful to Mr McGrady for his commitment to open government and parliamentary accountability.

It has been suggested that any activity for which the Government may have a contingent liability should be subject to scrutiny by Estimates Committees. There are continuing calls, particularly from non-government Members, to improve accountability by applying broader criteria to the bringing of GOCs before Estimates Committees for scrutiny.

The increasing 'corporatisation' of executive functions does present a problem of accountability to Parliament. As more functions go 'off budget', improved methods of managing parliamentary scrutiny will have to be developed.

Although most GOCs are similar in their managerial structure to many large private companies the fact that they remain government-owned affects their accountability in two ways. First, the Government ownership of these bodies is in trust for the public. The public is entitled to be assured that the trust is being properly exercised and the managers of GOCs should therefore be subject to scrutiny at least equivalent to that exercised by well-informed shareholders of private companies. Secondly, many GOCs provide opportunities for governments to implement policy without budget appropriations. This can be achieved either by requiring conformity with economic objectives or through the use of cross subsidies to meet community service obligations. Examples of these are the electricity industry maintaining low prices to consumers and continuing with tariff equalisation.

Governments should be accountable for all their policy initiatives, not merely those reflected in the Budget. Statutory Bodies, while generally accountable to the industries they serve, may incur government-guaranteed debt. These factors create a particular need for regular and systematic scrutiny of GOCs and SBs on behalf of the ultimate owners of the bodies or the guarantors of their debt—the people of Queensland. **The Committee believes that there should be some formal linkage between off-budget agencies and the Estimates Committees.**

The only opportunities for scrutiny of GOCs is through examination of their annual reports which are tabled in the Parliament. For a variety of reasons this is not seen as an adequate alternative to examination by Estimates Committees. The estimates process offers a number of advantages—Members have the opportunity to question a Minister plus the senior officers of a portfolio; traditionally a very broad range of questions is permissible and the proceedings enable matters to be pursued in detail.

**In relation to GOCs, the Committee is of the view that details should be provided if requested, with issues of commercial in confidence to be respected by the estimates committees.**

#### *Structure and content of Portfolio Program Statements*

Although the Committee was pleased with the general improvement in the presentation of documentation for the estimates process, there were still some difficulties in interpreting the Portfolio Program Statements which are primarily focused on input and activity information. **The Committee is keen to see the emphasis placed on results and what has been achieved in relation to policy goals and objectives.**

Formation of an overall picture of the financing of a particular program is still a complex task. This problem was evident over all program areas and it was virtually impossible for Committee Members to gain a comprehensive financial picture including revenue details without assistance from the officers in attendance.

**The Committee believes that a number of improvements should be made to the document before the next estimates process. Specifically—**

- (a) **the information was not sufficiently detailed to assist with the examination of sub-programs;**
- (b) **the footnotes and their format made it difficult to access and understand the information provided;**

- (c) **detailed information was not provided on sub-programs which were not seeking funds for budget initiatives; and**
- (d) **information about staffing and outlays was spread across different tables in the Program Statements.**

The Committee does not consider that information provided in Annual Reports compensates for the lack of detail in the Statements. Annual Reports are restricted to retrospective consideration of a department's operations and do not look at prospective funding and developments. Nor do they examine or reveal the detail of expenditure or revenues at sub-program level.

**The Committee therefore suggests that Treasury examine whether more comprehensive reporting could be provided in future Portfolio Performance Statements.**

#### *Review of Operational Issues*

This Committee expressed a number of concerns in relation to restrictions placed on the estimates hearings. While Members of the Committee have different views, they remain unanimous that there are problems with the present system. **In the opinion of the Committee one area that needs review is that of time allocated for questions and answers.** The Committee also believes that questions of a more technical nature should be able to be put on notice prior to the hearings or during the hearings. Where some departments have complex financial management systems then **it may be warranted that the Committee receive a briefing on the Program Statement before the formal hearings commence so that questions about specific financial issues can be explained.**

Because of the scheduling of this year's estimates process, this Committee had a very tight deadline to meet. In order for the Committee to adequately discharge its responsibilities **consideration should be given to either scheduling Committees' hearings simultaneously or providing an additional day for the Committee to meet.**

**The Committee would also like to see the more technical questions directed to departmental officers** and in this regard the co-operation shown by the Minister for Business, Industry and Regional Development and the Minister for Minerals and Energy in referring such questions through to the relevant Program Manager was very much appreciated by the Committee.

**The Committee believes that the estimates process is a vital part of the parliamentary process and as such recommends that these issues are addressed by a parliamentary review.**

#### *Acknowledgments*

The Committee expresses its appreciation of the assistance provided by the Ministers and the officers of the departments who appeared before it. The Committee also thanks the Hansard staff for the speedy provision of a transcript of evidence, which greatly assisted the Committee meeting its tight reporting deadline.

***Recommendations***

**Estimates Committee 'E' recommends—**

- (1) That the Legislative Assembly approve, without amendment, expenditure in accordance with the estimates considered by the Committee.**
- (2) That there be a parliamentary review of the estimates process.**



**GORDON NUTTALL MLA**  
*Chairman*  
*Estimates Committee 'E'*

## ESTIMATES COMMITTEE "E"

### NON GOVERNMENT MEMBERS RESERVATIONS

## **DBIRD**

### **ACCESS OF WOMEN TO SENIOR EXECUTIVE POSITIONS**

DBIRD is being promoted as a champion of women in business. When quizzed of the proportion of women in senior positions, it was shown that of the personnel in AO7 and higher, of the total 50, only 2 are female. Of the Senior Executive Service, the real engine room of management of the Department, there are no women, which means in effect, that not one programme within the Department is being run by a woman. And then when asked about sub-programme managers, again, there were no women.

The Minister did not justify that position, nor did he go on to explain what is being done to rectify that position.

This would suggest that the Minister was either unaware of the situation or condoned the situation.

This issue should be watched closely in the future to determine the pace of reform in this vital area.

### **THE IMPLEMENTATION OF QUALITY ASSURANCE WITHIN DBIRD**

The question was, "How much has your Department spent in the last three years trying to implement its own Quality Assurance System, including the money spent on training by Deloitte Ross Tohmatsu. The answer was not complete because the response excluded: "The cost of implementing these schemes (the purchasing section of DBIRD and its Cairns regional office) are therefore not included in the following figures."

The question did not exclude those costs, yet the Department in its response did. This would suggest that these figures have a problem and that is why the department specifically excluded them from the figures.

The total figure given, excluding that mentioned above, for the three year period was in excess of \$375,000. One would expect that over a three year period that significant outcomes could be pointed to. The question asked was: "What have been the achievements for this expense?" - yet no real outcomes were identified. The answer dealt only with expectations.

For instance, "The development of a Quality system for DBIRD that will improve productivity ....". They went on to further say "an electronic retrieval system ... will enable easy and efficient retrieval ... ". Not that it does. They also said



that, "Staff at all levels become involved in identifying improvements in internal processes, that will lead to improve efficiency and effectiveness."

And further, "It is this approach that will enable the department to achieve productivity improvements ...".

Which means that after three years, no significant outcomes have been able to be identified at this stage. This suggests that even with all the resources of DBIRD as the lead business agency in Queensland, all that has been achieved in three years, is a hope of future productivity improvements.

If an entity such as DBIRD has not been able to identify significant outcomes from a Quality Assurance implementation process after three years, then it would also suggest that many businesses would be in the same position. Which puts in question the processes being used, and the wisdom of going down the current path.

## WORKERS' COMPENSATION

The Government has announced that the 1995-96 financial year will be the first that the government agencies will be paying premium based workers' compensation into a separate fund. Up until this year, the Department would simply reimburse the Workers' Compensation Board for any claims made plus an administration fee. It has been argued that because government agencies were not paying premiums that they were being subsidised by the private system - the private sector who pay premium based workers' compensation.

The Minister acknowledged that the total cost of workers' compensation for 1994-95 under the old system will be "approximately" \$3018. The Minister also stated that the premium based workers' compensation for DBIRD for 1995-96 will be \$45,419 - a \$42,000 increase. If the assessment for DBIRD is correct, either there was no provision for the contingent liabilities of future workers' compensation claims against this Department, or there has been a cross subsidisation between the private system and the Department.

## PRODUCTIVITY DIVIDEND

On page 8 of the responses to questions on notice, the productivity dividend for 1995-96 that will be charged to the Department is \$320,000.

This is a great deal of money for a Department the size of DBIRD and represents almost the equivalent of the cost of the implementation of Quality Assurance. It must be clearly remembered that while the funding for DBIRD is quite a considerable \$93 million, that much of that is in the form of grants and subsidies to outside entities and that the Department itself has only 349 staff.

*Don Sullivan*      *Ray Jones*      *Trevor Pennington*

## **ESTIMATES COMMITTEE "E"**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON**

**WEDNESDAY 24 MAY 1995 AT**

**11.15AM IN ROOM A35, PARLIAMENT HOUSE**

**Members Present:** All members of the committee were present.

1. **Establishment and membership of Estimates Committee "E":** The Research Director tabled relevant extracts from the Votes and Proceedings relating to the appointment of the committee, the membership of the committee and the sessional orders relating to the operations of the committee.

2. **Election of Chairperson:** The Research Director called for nominations for the position of Chairperson of the Committee.

Mr Gilmore nominated Mr Nuttall, seconded by Mr Pearce and there being no further nominations, Mr Nuttall was declared elected.

3. **Election of Deputy Chairperson:** In accordance with the sessional orders, the Chairperson called for nominations for the position of Deputy Chairperson.

The Opposition members declined to nominate for the position.

Mr Pearce nominated Ms Power, seconded by Mr Bennett. There being no further nominations, the Chairperson declared Ms Power elected as Deputy Chairperson.

4. **Administrative Arrangements:** The committee **resolved** to schedule the attendance of the Departments in the following order:

Department of Primary Industries  
Department of Minerals and Energy  
Department of Business, Industry  
and Regional Development.

The committee discussed arrangements for the public hearing to be held on Tuesday 6 June.

It was **agreed** that the time allocation for Departments be as set out hereunder:

2.

Department of Primary Industries	5 hours	11.30am-1.00pm 2.00pm-3.30pm 3.50pm-5.50pm
----------------------------------	---------	--

(Opposition Members to have 8 allocations of 20 minute periods for questions.  
Government Members to have 7 allocations of 20 minute periods.)

Department of Minerals and Energy	3 hours	6.30pm-9.30pm
-----------------------------------	---------	---------------

(Opposition Members to have 5 allocations of 20 minute periods for questions.  
Government Members to have 4 allocations of 20 minute periods.)

Department of Business, Industry and Regional Development	3 hours	9.30pm-12.30am
---	---------	----------------

(Opposition Members to have 5 allocations of 20 minute periods for questions.  
Government Members to have 4 allocations of 20 minute periods.)

The Committee also **agreed**, after discussion, that the names of non-committee Members who will be seeking to ask questions during the hearing should be provided to the secretariat as soon as possible.

5. **Future Meetings:** The Chairperson briefed members on the committee's timetable for presentation of its report to the Parliament.

Discussion ensued.

On the motion of the Chairperson, the committee resolved to meet on the following dates and times:

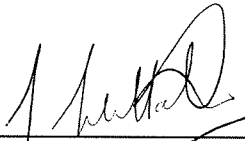
Tuesday 6 June, 11.30am	Public Hearings, Legislative Council Chamber
Thursday 8 June, 9.00am	To consider draft report Room A35, Parliament House
Friday 9 June, 9.00am	To consider revised report (if necessary) Room A35, Parliament House

3.

It was further **resolved** that the Chairperson would call supplementary meetings as necessary.

6. **Adjournment:** The committee adjourned at 11.50am until the Public Hearings on Tuesday, 6 June 1995 at 11.30am.
7. **Also in attendance** were Michele Cornwell (Research Director) and Meg Hoban (Research Assistant).

Confirmed--

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gordon Nuttall MLA  
Chairperson

8/6/95

# ESTIMATES COMMITTEE 'E'

Minutes of Meeting held on

**Tuesday, 6 June 1995**

**at 11.17am**

**Room B.27**

**Parliament House, Brisbane**

---

**1. Present**

Mr G Nuttall MLA  
Mr N Bennett MLA  
Mr T Gilmore MLA  
Mr J Pearce MLA

**2. Authorisation of Publication**

On the motion of Mr Pearce, seconded by Mr Bennett, it was resolved that:

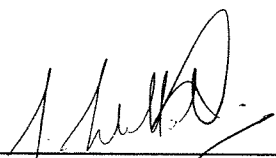
"All documents received by the committee are authorised for publication"

**3. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the Committee adjourned at 11.20am.

**4. Also in attendance were Michele Cornwell (Research Director) and Meg Hoban (Research Assistant).**

***Confirmed***



---

Gordon Nuttall MLA  
Chairperson

June 95



# ESTIMATES COMMITTEE 'E'

Minutes of Hearing held on

**Tuesday, 6 June 1995**

**at 11.30am**

Legislative Council Chamber  
Parliament House, Brisbane

---

**1. Meeting**

The Committee met in public session at 11.30am. The Chairman, Mr Gordon Nuttall, took the Chair.

**2. Statement by the Chairman**

The Chairman made an introductory statement concerning the Committee's consideration of proposed expenditure contained in the Appropriation Bill 1995 for the areas set out in the Sessional Orders.

**3. The following Members of the Committee were present:-**

Mr G Nuttall MLA  
Mr N Bennett MLA  
Mr R Connor MLA  
Mr T Gilmore MLA  
Mr J Pearce MLA  
Mr T Perrett MLA  
Ms L Power MLA

**4. Examination of Estimates**

**Primary Industries**

In attendance was the Honourable E Casey MLA, Minister for Primary Industries, accompanied by the following officers:-

Mr T Fenwick  
Dr R Smith  
Mr T Johnston  
Mr S Coffey  
Mr J Varghese  
Mr R Nieper  
Mr P White  
Mr N Dawson  
Mr N Clough  
Mr P Bevin  
Mr B Smith

Director-General  
Deputy Director-General  
Director, Strategic Policy Unit  
Director, Research and Extension  
Executive Director, Corporate Services  
Executive Director, Agricultural Production  
Executive Director, Agribusiness  
Executive Director, Resource Management  
Executive Director, Forest Service  
Executive Director, Water Resources  
General Manager, Finance

The Committee examined the witnesses.

Mr Elliott MLA, Member for Cunningham, Mr Springborg MLA, Member for Warwick and Mr Hobbs MLA, Member for Warrego, by leave, also asked questions.

At 5.31 the Committee concluded its examination and the witnesses withdrew.

### ***Suspension of Sitting***

The sitting was suspended at 5.31pm.

### ***Resumption of Sitting***

The Committee resumed at 6.30pm.

### **Minerals and Energy**

In attendance was the Minister for Minerals and Energy, the Honourable A McGrady MLA, accompanied by the following officers:-

Mr R Willims	Director-General
Mr K Gluch	Deputy Director-General
Ms R Brunckhorst	Director, Corporate Services Division
Mr B Coulter	Director, Policy Division
Dr B Day	Director, Geological Survey Division
Mr C Taylor	Director, Minerals Division
Mr R Fisher	Acting Director, Energy Division
Mr P Dent	Director, SIMTARS
Mr B Brock	Manager, State Gas Pipeline Unit
Mr C Farmer	CEO, AUSTA
Mr K Hilless	CEO, Queensland Transmission & Supply Corporation

The Committee examined the witnesses.

Mr Springborg MLA, Member for Warwick, by leave, also asked questions.

At 9.33pm the Committee concluded its examination and the witnesses withdrew.

### ***Suspension of Sitting***

The sitting was suspended at 9.33pm.

### ***Resumption of Sitting***

The Committee resumed at 9.37pm.

**Department of Business, Industry and Regional Development**

In attendance was the Minister for Business, Industry and Regional Development, Mr W Pitt MLA, accompanied by the following officers:-

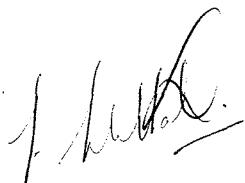
Mr R Boyle	Director-General
Mr J Woods	Cabinet Legislation and Liaison Officer
Mr R Pulsford	Manager, Finance
Mr M Bermingham	Manager, Resource Planning Development
Mr D Eagle	General Manager, Queensland Small Business Corporation

The Committee examined the witnesses.

At 12.40am the Committee concluded its examination and the witnesses withdrew.

**5. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the Committee adjourned at 12.40am.



Gordon Nuttall MLA  
Chairman

# ESTIMATES COMMITTEE 'E'

Minutes of Meeting held on

**Thursday, 8 June 1995**

**at 9.00am**

**Room A.35**

**Parliament House, Brisbane**

---

**1. *The following Members of the Committee were present:-***

Mr G Nuttall MLA  
Mr N Bennett MLA  
Mr J Pearce MLA  
Mr T Perrett MLA  
Mr T Gilmore MLA  
Ms L Power MLA

**2. *Confirmation of Minutes of Meetings - 24 May 1995 and 6 June 1995***

On the motion of Mr Pearce, seconded by Mr Bennett, the Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 24 May 1995 were confirmed.

On the motion of Mr Pearce, seconded by Mr Bennett, the Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 6 June 1995 were confirmed.

**3. *Minutes of Public Hearing***

On the motion Mr Pearce, seconded by Mr Bennett, the Minutes of the Hearings of the Committee held on Tuesday 6 June 1995, were confirmed.

**4. *Consideration of Chairperson's Draft Report***

The Committee proceeded to the consideration of the Chairperson's Draft Report in relation to estimates of expenditure referred to the Committee pursuant to Sessional Orders.

Discussion ensued.

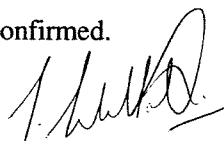
The Committee resolved to consider a revised Draft Report (to be circulated on Thursday 8 June 1995) at a meeting at 9am, Friday 9 June 1995.

**5. *Adjournment***

There being no further business, the Committee adjourned at 9.26am.

**6. Also in attendance were Michele Cornwell (Research Director) and Meg Hoban (Research Assistant).**

Confirmed.



Gordon Nuttall MLA  
Chairperson

# ESTIMATES COMMITTEE 'E'

Minutes of Meeting held on

**Friday, 9 June 1995**

**at 9.00am**

**Room A.35**

**Parliament House, Brisbane**

---

**1. *Present***

All Members of the Committee were present.

**2. *Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting***

On the motion of Ms Power, seconded by Mr Gilmore, the Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 8 June 1995 were confirmed.

**3. *Adoption of Report***

The Committee considered a revised Draft Report circulated by the Chairperson. On the motion of Mr Nuttall and seconded by Mr Pearce, the report, as amended, was adopted.

Mr Connor confirmed that he would be submitting a reservation to the Committee's report.

**4. *Acknowledgments***

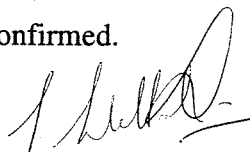
The Chairperson thanked all Members for their co-operation and the research staff for their assistance.

**5. *Adjournment***

There being no further business, the Committee adjourned at 9.27am.

**6. Also in attendance were Michele Cornwell (Research Director) and Meg Hoban (Research Assistant).**

Confirmed.



Gordon Nuttall MLA  
Chairperson  
June 1995.