

***Estimates Committee B***

Report No. 1, 8 October 1996

***Department of Justice***

***Queensland Police Service and Office of Racing, and the Queensland Corrective Services Commission***

***Department of Emergency Services and the Office of Sport and Recreation***



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**ESTIMATES COMMITTEE B**

**REPORT TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF  
QUEENSLAND**

**October 1996**

## **ESTIMATES COMMITTEE B**

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# CONTENTS

<b>1. INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2. EXAMINATION OF THE PROPOSED EXPENDITURE.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2.1 DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.....</b>	<b>1</b>
2.1.1 Criminal Justice Commission's Budget .....	2
2.1.2 The Anti-Discrimination Commission .....	2
2.1.3 Victims of Crime Funding .....	3
2.1.4 Appointment of Judges.....	3
2.1.5 Litigation Reform Commission .....	4
2.1.6 A Referendum for an Upper House in the Queensland Parliament .....	4
2.1.7 Computer-based Sentencing System .....	4
2.1.8 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Justices of the Peace.....	4
<b>2.2 QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE .....</b>	<b>5</b>
2.2.1 Fines and Penalties .....	5
2.2.2 Resource Implications of the Proposed Weapons Amendment Act.....	6
2.2.3 Unspent Funding on Capital Works .....	6
2.2.4 Townsville Police Academy (North Queensland Campus) .....	6
2.2.5 Police Numbers.....	6
2.2.6 Regional Police Budgets.....	7
2.2.7 Speed Camera Revenue.....	7
<b>2.3 QUEENSLAND CORRECTIVE SERVICES COMMISSION .....</b>	<b>7</b>
2.3.1 Comparative Costs .....	7
2.3.2 Juvenile Detention Centres.....	7
2.3.3 Deaths in Custody.....	7
<b>2.4 OFFICE OF RACING .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>2.5 DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND OFFICE OF SPORT AND RECREATION .....</b>	<b>8</b>
2.5.1 Debt Collection .....	8
2.5.2 Fire Services .....	9
2.5.3 Major Hazard Facilities.....	9
2.5.4 Fire Services and Ambulance Services .....	9
2.5.5 Rescue Helicopter Services.....	10
2.5.6 Transfer of Queensland Emergency Service Aircraft to the Royal Flying Doctor Service ..	10
2.5.7 Equipment for Emergency Services' Volunteers.....	10
2.5.8 Waiting List for Fire Appliances .....	10
2.5.9 The Office of Sport and Recreation's Strategic Plan .....	11
2.5.10 State Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sport and Recreation Policy.....	11
2.5.11 Queensland Academy of Sport Funding.....	12
2.5.12 Recreational Camps .....	12
2.5.13 Capital Works Program.....	12
2.5.14 Applications for Community Sports Development Grants.....	13
<b>3. PROCEDURAL MATTERS.....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>4. RECOMMENDATION.....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS</b>	
<b>Minutes of Meeting held on 11 September 1996 .....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Minutes of Meeting held on 12 September 1996 .....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Minutes of Meeting held on 13 September 1996 .....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Minutes of Meeting held on 18 September 1996 .....</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Minutes of Public Hearing held on 18 September 1996.....</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Minutes of Meeting held on 1 October 1996 .....</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>STATEMENT OF RESERVATIONS BY OPPOSITION MEMBERS</b>	

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

On 3 September 1996, the Legislative Assembly referred to the Committee, for examination and report, particulars of proposed expenditures contained in the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 1996 for organisational units within the following portfolios:

- Attorney-General and Minister for Justice
- Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing
- Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport.

The Committee met at 9.00 am on 18 September 1996 in the Legislative Council Chamber, Parliament House, in accordance with the Sessional Orders of the Legislative Assembly, and the Chair declared the meeting open.

The Committee has considered the proposed expenditure utilising the various budget papers together with the Ministerial Program Statements, and has received evidence from the Honourable D Beanland MLA, the Honourable R Cooper MLA and the Honourable M Veivers MLA, and officers of the departments and statutory bodies 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 Legislative Assembly. Questions put to Ministers by the Committee, prior to the public hearing, and the answers received, are contained in a separate volume entitled Additional Information Received by the Committee. Answers to questions taken on notice at the Committee's public hearing, and further information supplied by departments as a result of matters raised at the hearing, will also be presented to the House in this additional volume of information.

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

## **2. EXAMINATION OF THE PROPOSED EXPENDITURE**

### **2.1 DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

The Committee examined proposed expenditure of \$272,105,000. As noted by the Minister in his introductory statement to the Committee, the 1996-97 budget allocation represents an increase of some \$36M over last year's budget allocation. The budget allocated to the Department includes \$42,552,000 for capital works. The two major projects to be funded from this allocation are the construction of a new court complex at Rockhampton and the extension of the existing courthouse at Southport. The Department's budget also includes an increase of \$2.8M in the Director of Public Prosecutions' Vote, to allow for increased prosecutions of offences, and a \$2.6M

increase in the funding for the Legal Aid Office, to allow for increased representation of persons needing legal assistance.

### **2.1.1 Criminal Justice Commission's Budget**

The Committee referred to proposed reductions in the Criminal Justice Commission's budget.

In response to questions from the Committee, the Minister told the Committee that the Criminal Justice Commission would be assisted in making savings within the particular area of the Corporate Services Division. The Minister advised the Committee that he did not accept that cuts needed to be made in other areas of the CJC's activities.

In response to the Committee's request for specific details of the cuts to be made to achieve the proposed savings in the Corporate Services Division, the Minister indicated that Corporate Services currently comprised some 40% of the CJC's budget, compared to only 7% of the Department of Justice's budget. The Minister told the Committee that, as savings in the order of 8% had been effected in the Department of Justice across the board in corporate services areas, the Minister believed they could also be made in the Corporate Services Division of the Criminal Justice Commission.

Information was then sought from Mr F Clair, Chair of the Criminal Justice Commission, as to the impact of the budget cuts on the CJC's operation. Mr Clair advised the Committee that the consequences of the budgetary restrictions would include:

- disbanding one of three multidisciplinary teams in the Official Misconduct Division, with the result that approximately 200 fewer complaints would be likely to be able to be investigated during the course of the year.
- abandoning active investigations into Chinese organised crime (Operation Shamrock) and Japanese organised crime (Operation Tara).
- less opportunity for a public hearing into police corruption.

In response to questioning from the Committee, Mr Clair told the Committee that prior to the budget being announced, he had not received any indication from the Minister or the Department of Justice that there was any concern regarding the level of the Corporate Services budget in 1995-96.

### **2.1.2 The Anti-Discrimination Commission**

The Committee sought the views of Mr J Briton, the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner, on the likely impact on victims of discrimination, if the investigation and conciliation functions of the Commission were to be transferred to Magistrates

Courts' registrars. Mr Briton advised the Committee that, in his opinion, this would effectively render redress for discrimination complaints inaccessible, in particular to indigenous persons. Members of ethnic communities and women were also identified as groups likely to be significantly affected. The Committee sought an assurance from the Minister that the Anti-Discrimination Commission would continue to operate as an independent Commission, as opposed to having its functions discharged through the Magistrates Courts. The Minister told the Committee that he was not presently in a position to give any indication whether the Anti-Discrimination Commission and Tribunal would continue in their current form. The Minister explained that the reason for this was because the agreement with the Commonwealth expires in December 1996 and some changes may be required to be made.

The Committee expresses concern that any loss of the Commission's independence could result in a reduction of accessibility by the community.

### **2.1.3 Victims of Crime Funding**

On a question placed on notice prior to the hearing, the Committee sought details of the manner in which Victims of Crime funding of \$0.453M was to be expended. The Committee was advised that this sum comprises \$0.250M to implement the new initiative *Criminal Offence Victims Act 1995* (COVA), \$0.167M carry over COVA funding from 1995-96 and \$0.036M carry over funding from the Victims of Homicide Project. In a further question on notice prior to the hearing the Committee asked why no budget provision had been made for the extra \$1M for victims of crime promised by the Minister. The reply received by the Committee stated that the budget for the 1996-97 year included increased funding of \$1.194M for victims of crime.

### **2.1.4 Appointment of Judges**

In a question on notice prior to the Committee's hearing, the Committee sought information as to the total number of positions for judges for which provision had been made in the 1996-97 budget estimates. The Committee was advised that provision had been made for up to five judicial appointments (Judges, Justices, Stipendiary Magistrates) during 1996-97. In its pre-hearing questions on notice, the Committee sought clarification as to why the number of judiciary for which budgetary provision has been made, according to p 1-11 of the Ministerial Program Statement, showed no increase over the 1995-96 actual figure of 53, despite a reference in Budget Paper No 2 to "additional judicial appointments" in 1996-97. The Committee was advised that, because judicial appointments are a decision for the Governor-in-Council, it was not appropriate to specifically anticipate such appointments. In response to further questioning at the hearing, the Minister pointed out that one additional magistrate had been appointed prior to June 1996, and two additional District Court judges had been appointed since the Budget had been handed down. The Minister told the Committee that additional funding had been provided for in the budget for any additional judicial appointments, but that any additional appointments would not necessarily be permanent appointments.

The Committee expresses concern that no budget provision has been made to increase the number of District and Supreme Court judges from the 1995-96 number of 53, to reflect the five additional District and Supreme Court judges pledged by the Coalition before the 1995 election.

### **2.1.5 Litigation Reform Commission**

In a question on notice prior to the hearing, the Committee queried the validity of the economies likely to be achieved by the proposed merger of the Litigation Reform Commission with the Law Reform Commission, given that the merger did not take into account the free expertise contributed by practising judges to the work of the Litigation Reform Commission.

In the answer received by the Committee prior to the hearing, the Committee was advised that it was the present Government's view that the involvement of the judiciary in the law reform process should be limited in view of the potential problems posed under the doctrine of the separation of powers.

### **2.1.6 A Referendum for an Upper House in the Queensland Parliament**

At page 2-7 of the Ministerial Program Statement, the planned activities of the Queensland Electoral Commission for 1996-97 were stated to include the conduct of a possible referendum for the re-introduction of an Upper House in the Queensland Parliament. In a question on notice prior to the hearing, the Committee sought information on the likely cost of such a referendum. The Committee was advised that the cost of holding a referendum in 1996-97 was estimated at \$6,000,000.

### **2.1.7 Computer-based Sentencing System**

The Committee inquired as to whether the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions had introduced a computer-based data base for the comparison of penalties and sentences for serious criminal offences, particularly on appeal. The Committee believes that such a data base would significantly assist counsel in presenting cases. Senior officials of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions indicated that only a paper-based set of appellate decisions was maintained. In response to further questions, the Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr M Byrne, acknowledged that it would be to the advantage of everyone in the criminal justice system if a data base of comparative sentences on more serious offences was available.

### **2.1.8 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Justices of the Peace**

The Committee expresses concern that the cut in funding for training for justices of the peace/Magistrates Courts in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities may result in less opportunity for indigenous participation in the administration of justice.

## 2.2 QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE

In his opening remarks, the Minister referred to five new budget initiatives reflecting the Government's commitment to the personnel and infrastructure needs identified in the Police Service's strategic resource planning document *Towards the Twenty-first Century - Resource Priorities for the Queensland Police Service*. These initiatives are:

- an allocation of \$4,180,000 to the Police Staffing Plan, the primary objective of which is to provide increased operational police services to the community
- \$3,516,000 to establish the Queensland Police Academy (North Queensland Campus) at Townsville
- an additional \$5M for the Queensland Police Service Capital Works Program
- funding of \$5M for the POLARIS and PHOENIX information technology projects, and
- \$1.5M for the maintenance and upgrade of major equipment.

### 2.2.1 Fines and Penalties

The Committee sought clarification as to why revenue retained by the Queensland Police Service had increased by only a small amount from an actual of \$6.294M in 1995-96 to an estimated \$6.35M for 1996-97, when the Budget Papers showed that revenue from traffic fines is expected to increase from an actual of \$31.62M to an estimate of \$46.617M in 1996-97. The Executive Director of Corporate Services, Mr R Warry, explained that the revenue from traffic fines goes directly into consolidated revenue, not to the Queensland Police Service. In response to further questions, the Minister undertook to obtain from Treasury and provide to the Committee a total figure for fines, forfeitures or penalties arising from police service work. The Committee was subsequently advised that, for 1995-96, the Department of Police had total receipts of \$13.968M, \$5.022M of which related to Consolidated Fund receipts, and \$8.947M of which related to Trust and Special Fund Receipts, being revenue generated by the Racing Development Fund. Of the Consolidated Fund amount of \$5.022M, \$0.127M had been receipted and banked under the category of Fines and Forfeitures. Revenue generated by the Department of Police by issuing traffic offence notices, executing warrants and issuing permits on behalf of other departments is forwarded to the department responsible for the administration of the Act to which the revenue relates. However, the Committee was advised that Treasury was unable to separate receipts relating to police work from other receipts collected by these departments.

### **2.2.2 Resource Implications of the Proposed Weapons Amendment Act**

The Committee sought further particulars of the significant resource implications stated in the Ministerial Program Statement to be associated with the proposed Weapons Amendment Act. The Minister outlined how the new requirements for firearms registration imposed a need to establish new information systems and to expand the Weapons Licensing Branch, whose staff numbers were to be increased to 38.

The Committee expresses concern that the Minister was unable to advise how an \$8 million shortfall in funding, for the introduction of the Amendments to the Weapons Act, would be provided, if the Commonwealth offer has not increased. Advice from the Minister that the additional funding would “come from Treasury or, failing that, then the administration of the scheme itself, the buy-back scheme, and all of that may have to be downgraded to some extent. We may not be able to do it as well as we possibly can”, is highly unsatisfactory.

### **2.2.3 Unspent Funding on Capital Works**

Clarification was sought on the amount of Capital Works funding rolled over from the 1995-96 budget. The Committee was advised that approximately \$19M was unspent and had been rolled over.

### **2.2.4 Townsville Police Academy (North Queensland Campus)**

With the leave of the Committee, Mr G Nuttall MLA sought a breakdown of costs for the proposed North Queensland Campus of the Townsville Police Academy. The Minister, together with Mr Warry, Corporate Services, advised that the start-up cost for the Townsville Academy was approximately \$1.5M. Of this \$1.5M, approximately \$750,000 related to the refurbishment of the facility which is to be leased and the remainder related to costs such as the cost of equipment and fit-out. Approximately \$2M had been allocated for recurrent costs associated with the Academy's operation. In response to further questions, the Committee was advised that tenders had been sought from motels for the provision of accommodation for the recruits who would be attending the proposed North Queensland Campus. In response to a question placed on notice, the Committee was informed that the budget allocation for accommodation and catering for the recruits was approximately \$1.2M. The Committee was further advised that a decision on the successful tender was imminent.

### **2.2.5 Police Numbers**

The Committee reinforces the critical need to achieve the increase in police numbers as outlined in the answers given in response to questions on notice prior to the hearing.

### **2.2.6 Regional Police Budgets**

The Committee expresses concern that the Regional Police Budgets have only been increased by 2.5% to 4% which does not allow for real increases in police services after allowing for the impact of inflation. This is in comparison to an overall Budget increase of 7.3% which is an indication that service delivery at operational police level may be diminished.

### **2.2.7 Speed Camera Revenue**

The Committee expresses dissatisfaction that the introduction of speed cameras, whilst achieving some safety gains, will result in the generation of a high increase in revenue to Treasury, due to issuing of additional tickets to a significant percentage of this state's drivers. This indicates that their introduction is revenue based, rather than singularly for road safety reasons.

## **2.3 QUEENSLAND CORRECTIVE SERVICES COMMISSION**

### **2.3.1 Comparative Costs**

The Committee asked the Minister to place the budget for the Queensland Corrective Services Commission in context, by providing comparative costs with other states. The Minister advised the Committee that figures from the recent Commission of Audit Report showed that for Queensland, it cost \$98 per prisoner per day for secure custody in 1994-95 compared with the national average of \$131, \$39 per prisoner per day for open custody in 1994-95 compared with the national average of \$96, and \$4 per offender per day for community supervision in 1994-95 compared with the national average of \$6.

### **2.3.2 Juvenile Detention Centres**

The Committee sought an assurance from the Minister that lock-downs of juvenile inmates at juvenile detention centres would not be used as a cost-saving management tool. The Minister gave the assurance the lock-downs would not be used to effect savings, but would only be used in emergency situations.

### **2.3.3 Deaths in Custody**

Specific details were sought of the current strategies being implemented to reduce deaths in custody. The Committee was advised that procedures and programs introduced by the Corrective Services Commission included the use of techniques to identify persons at risk of self-harm and the establishment of units to provide intensive supervision to persons identified as being at risk.

The Committee enquired whether there was any intention on the part of the department to effect savings in deaths in custody programs. The Committee was told there was not.

## **2.4 OFFICE OF RACING**

With the leave of the Committee, Mr Gibbs MLA sought clarification as to whether funding would be provided during this financial year to enable harness racing to be re-introduced at the Townsville Showgrounds. The Minister told the Committee that the North Queensland Harness Racing Association and the Harness Racing Board have been charged with the responsibility of putting together a trial scheme to begin next year.

Details of the clubs to receive funding from the Racing Development Fund, the purpose and size of the grants, and whether the grant was recommended by the appropriate control body, were provided to the Committee in response to a question taken on notice at the hearing.

## **2.5 DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND OFFICE OF SPORT AND RECREATION**

The Committee examined proposed expenditure of \$505,483,000 for the Department of Emergency Services and the Office of Sport and Recreation. Programs examined included the Ambulance Services, Fire Services, Emergency Services, Corporate Services, and Sport and Recreation.

In his opening statement, the Minister advised that, in spite of the difficult economic climate, the budget allocation to the portfolio had been increased by approximately 8%, recognising the importance of emergency service delivery, sport and recreation for all Queensland. The Minister told the Committee that increased staffing levels, more emergency equipment, greater emphasis on service delivery and a back-to-basics attitude were provided for in the Department's budget.

### **2.5.1 Debt Collection**

In response to questioning, Mr M Kinnane, Executive Director, Support Services Division, advised the Committee that the total debts collected last financial year amounted to \$9,014,000. He advised that written off debts amounted to \$4,097,000 and outstanding debts amounted to \$5,604,000. Mr Kinnane advised that the Department of Emergency Services raised debts for the following services: the Queensland Ambulance Service, fees for ambulance transport for non-subscribers; the Queensland Fire Service, fees for services not covered by fire service levies; the Emergency Services Division, fees for aircraft charter; and the Office of Sport and Recreation, fees for recreational camps.

Mr Kinnane advised that a number of steps have been taken, and are planned, which will lead to an improved debt management arrangement and increased revenue collections.

### **2.5.2 Fire Services**

Mr M Hall, Acting Commissioner, Queensland Fire Service, advised the Committee that, with the exception of one recommendation, all recommendations of the coronial inquiry into the deaths of two firefighters at Southport had been followed up.

Mr Hall advised that no definitive action has been taken on the remaining outstanding recommendation relating to a computer-based register of commercial premises in each fire district. He advised the Committee that such a register is not achievable at present due to the sheer volume of information necessary to maintain a register and the impossibility of maintaining accurate and up-to-date information regarding alterations to premises.

### **2.5.3 Major Hazard Facilities**

The Committee sought an assurance about precautions taken to secure sites of large chemical storages and to protect surrounding communities.

Mr J Noye, A/Executive Director, Emergency Services Division, advised the Committee that the Department would shortly issue guidelines on major hazard facilities. In response to a further question, Mr A Brunner, Director, Chem Unit, Emergency Services Division, advised that there are about 25 sites in Queensland which could be classified as major hazard facilities and that, as a result of the Department's emergency planning strategy, it was expected that each one of those would have an up-to-date emergency plan within the next 12 months.

### **2.5.4 Fire Services and Ambulance Services**

The Committee inquired about the proposed changes to the governance structures of the Fire Service and the Ambulance Service, which would result in the Services operating during the next financial year as statutory authorities rather than as divisions of the Department. The Committee also inquired about the impact these changes would have on the community service obligations of the Ambulance Service.

The Committee was advised by Dr G FitzGerald, Commissioner, Queensland Ambulance Service, that community service obligations with respect to small rural ambulance stations would be retained, and that the statutory authority structure would be beneficial through greater flexibility.

Mr Hall advised that, with respect to fire services, service provided in country towns has dramatically improved over the past six years. Mr Hall expressed the view that, under statutory authority, this improvement can be enhanced only by allowing the

people to have even more of a community and a local contribution into the development of their fire services locally.

### **2.5.5 Rescue Helicopter Services**

The Committee sought details concerning the proposed funding for the Capricornia Rescue Helicopter Service and the Mackay-based Rescue Helicopter Service.

The Minister advised the Committee that the funding commitment had been met with an allocation of \$300,000 because of a “wet leasing” arrangement. Mr Noye told the Committee that the “wet lease” option developed by the Department resulted in initial up-front costs estimated at \$1.5M being unnecessary, as a contract was arranged with a professional operator for the helicopter and usually the pilots.

The Committee observes that the budget material presented to the Committee made no provision for \$3 million Capital Funding for the Rockhampton and Mackay Helicopter services as previously pledged.

### **2.5.6 Transfer of Queensland Emergency Service Aircraft to the Royal Flying Doctor Service**

In response to a question concerning the transfer of a King Air aircraft from Queensland Emergency Services to the Royal Flying Doctor Service in north Queensland, the Minister advised the Committee that the aircraft had been handed over the previous week.

Mr Noye advised that the aircraft would now undergo re-fitting and, in response to further questioning, advised that the aircraft would be operational by late January. Mr Noye reassured the Committee that service would not be diminished over the peak Christmas period as a replacement aircraft would be made available to the Royal Flying Doctor Service until the King Air was returned to service.

### **2.5.7 Equipment for Emergency Services’ Volunteers**

In response to a question taken on notice by Mr Noye, the Committee was provided with written details concerning the proposed budget for equipment for volunteers. The answer indicated that total expenditure on equipment for volunteers in 1995-96 amounted to \$510,325 and that a sum of \$611,450 had been allocated for the financial year 1996-97.

### **2.5.8 Waiting List for Fire Appliances**

The Committee questioned the Queensland Emergency Service on the waiting list for rural fire appliances.

Mr D Luxton, A/Deputy Commissioner, Rural Operations, Queensland Fire Service, advised the Committee that the waiting list for fire appliances had gone from three to four and a half years. The number of appliances supplied last year was 65 whereas the number this year will be 37.

This reflects the reduction in the budget to rural fires from \$7.8M in 1995-96 to \$6.3 M in 1996-97.

### **2.5.9 The Office of Sport and Recreation's Strategic Plan**

In his opening statement, the Minister advised that, as part of a long-term solution to planning for the provision of facilities, the Office of Sport and Recreation is presently formulating a strategic plan, as well as preparing a 10 year plan to guide the development of international, national and regional sports facilities. The Minister advised the Committee that the Office of Sport and Recreation had never had a strategic plan, with the development of facilities in Queensland in the past occurring on an ad hoc basis.

In response to a question from the Committee, Mr I Whitehead, A/Director, Program Development, Office of Sport and Recreation explained that the rationale behind the development of the strategic plan was for the Office of Sport and Recreation to take on a liaison consultation with its key client groups to make sure that the level of services and the programs it was offering were consistent with their needs. Mr Whitehead pointed out that in the past the Office of Sport and Recreation had not done this. There was a need to establish a closer link with the peak agencies and the groups that the Office was working with to make sure that those services matched those needs. Mr Whitehead advised the Committee that funding has been allocated for the undertaking of that strategic plan which is expected to be commenced in the near future.

### **2.5.10 State Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sport and Recreation Policy**

In response to a question from the Committee concerning the proposed development of the State Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sport and Recreation Policy, the Minister advised that a strategic plan will be based on consultation with indigenous community organisations, mainstream sport and recreational bodies, ATSI regional councils, other relevant State Government agencies and the Australian Sports Commission. This plan will contribute to the complete strategic plan for the Office of Sport and Recreation. The plan will provide the framework for the modification of existing programs or the development of additional programs in line with the needs of these communities.

The Minister advised that the Office of Sport and Recreation already administers the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Young Persons Sport and Recreation Development Program as a joint initiative with the Australian Sports Commission, with funding provided by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission. This program aims to decrease alcohol and substance abuse and anti-social behaviour by indigenous young people through the provision of sport and recreation opportunities. Indigenous sport and recreation development officers have been employed in Cairns,

Thursday Island, Mount Isa, Townsville, Ipswich and Logan, and an additional officer will soon commence employment in Rockhampton. The Minister advised that additional positions will be established in the south-west and north coast regions, ensuring that the indigenous communities in each region have the support of an indigenous officer.

### **2.5.11 Queensland Academy of Sport Funding**

Clarification was sought relating to proposed expenditure for the Queensland Academy of Sport's athletes, which is budgeted at \$1.7M for 1996-97, compared with \$2.1M in 1995-96. Ms W Shakespear, Director, Academy of Sport, Office of Sport and Recreation, advised the Committee that the Queensland Academy of Sport had received an increase for the year. She advised that the figure of \$1.7M represents only part of the budget for the Academy and that the apparently higher figure last financial year included several one-off amounts, including Olympic bonus grants, which had highly inflated the 1995-96 figures.

### **2.5.12 Recreational Camps**

In response to questioning from the Committee, Mr Whitehead outlined reasons for the increase in spending for recreation camps, and the drop in their staffing levels, this financial year.

With respect to the future of the 12 recreational camps administered by the Department, he advised that the Department, with the assistance of an external consultant, is preparing a report for the Minister which will look at the viability of the centres and consider options for their use, including management, staffing, delivery of programs, and maintenance and/or enhancement of camp facilities. The Minister advised that the review is expected to be completed by December 1996.

### **2.5.13 Capital Works Program**

During questioning, the Committee noted that, unlike the 1995-96 Portfolio Program Statements, the 1996-97 Ministerial Program Statements did not contain a significant list of capital works.

In an answer to a question taken on notice, the Committee was provided with a list of proposed capital works which have been approved to date. The Committee noted that the Capital Works detailed in the table in the Ministerial Portfolio Statement referred to projects undertaken through expenditure from Capital Works Appropriation. It did not include projects supported through expenditure from funding programs which are classified as capital grants and subsidies, and which are separated because ownership of these projects does not rest with the State.

### 2.5.14 Applications for Community Sports Development Grants

In response to pre-hearing Questions on Notice, the Committee was provided with detailed information relating to funding under the Community Recreation Centres Program, the National Standard Sports Facilities Program and the Local Government Recreation Planning Pilot Program. The answer provided to the Committee stated that no funding had been approved under the State-wide Sport Development Program since February 1996.

Detailed information was also provided about funding requested by each State Sporting Organisation or lead agency. The Committee was advised that applications were currently being assessed and it is expected that approval for the recommended schedule will be provided in October 1996.

The Committee was also provided with details relating to projects totalling approximately \$2M which had been approved under the 1996 Minor Facilities Development Program. This Program provides assistance to eligible youth, sport and recreation organisations, Local Government and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Councils to construct or to upgrade facilities which mainly cater for local community activities.

## 3. PROCEDURAL MATTERS

As a result of recommendations made by the Select Committee on Procedural Review in its report of July 1996 on *Review of the Estimates Committee Process*, new Sessional Orders were adopted to govern this year's Estimates process. The Committee is in general pleased with the operation of the Estimates process under the Sessional Orders adopted by the Legislative Assembly on 3 September 1996, as amended on 12 September 1996. In particular, the Committee notes with approval the ability for Committee members to ask questions on notice prior to the hearing, the curtailment of late night questioning after 7.30 pm and the extension of the three minute time limit for answers, with the consent of the questioner. However, the Committee takes this opportunity to make the following observations in relation to the provision made for Estimates Committees to question public officials.

In its report, the Select Committee on Procedural Review gave careful consideration to the issue of direct questioning of public officials, stating that:

*The Committee is of the opinion that the ability to question senior public officials is one of the primary reasons for an Estimates Committee process.*

*Whilst it is appreciated that some Ministers in the past have regularly referred questions to departmental officers, other Ministers have not.*<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Legislative Assembly of Queensland, Select Committee on Procedural Review, *Review of the Estimates Committee Process*, Report No 1, July 1996, p 25.

To facilitate the increased participation of senior departmental officials and officers of independent agencies, the Committee recommended that “Members be permitted to ask questions directly of departmental officers”.<sup>2</sup> Under the Sessional Orders agreed to by the House, an Estimates Committee may invite public officials from the organisational units or portfolios allocated to the Committee to the Committee’s hearing (Sessional Order 17(2)). Public officials may be asked questions by Committee members, and by Members who are not Committee members, with the Committee’s leave (Sessional Orders 17 (5) & (6)). However, a Minister or the public official being questioned may object to a question asked on the basis that it seeks to elicit an opinion on policy matters.

The Committee is of the opinion that the ability to directly question public officials is a particularly valuable reform to the Estimates process. However, its usefulness is limited in practice if public officials whom the Committee asks to have in attendance are unable to attend. In this regard, the Committee notes the unavailability on the hearing date of the Commissioner for Police and Chief Executive of the Office of Racing, and the Director-General of the Corrective Services Commission.

It is the opinion of the Committee that, as the date for Estimates Committee hearings is usually known some time in advance, every effort should be made to ensure that senior public officials are able to attend future hearings of Estimates Committees. The availability of public officials is particularly to be emphasised for Chief Executives, who are, under s 36(1) of the *Financial Administration and Audit Act 1977*, directly accountable for the financial administration of their departments.

This Committee notes the recommendation of the Select Committee on Procedural Review that a further review of the Estimates process be conducted by the Parliament within two years.<sup>3</sup> In the Committee’s view, if the unavailability of senior public officials continues to be a matter of concern, it may be appropriate for any review of the Estimates process to consider whether Estimates Committees should be given the power to call witnesses.

The Committee also takes this opportunity to indicate that Mr F Clair, Chair, Criminal Justice Commission, was a witness whose attendance was requested by the Committee, and of whom questions were asked by the Committee, in accordance with the powers given to Estimates Committees under the new Sessional Orders.

#### **4. RECOMMENDATION**

The Committee recommends that the proposed expenditure, in accordance with the Estimates referred to the Committee, be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly without amendment.

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<sup>2</sup> Ibid

<sup>3</sup> Ibid, p 21.

## **5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The Committee thanks the Ministers and departmental staff for their cooperation during the course of the Estimates process.

In particular, the Committee takes this opportunity to record its grateful appreciation to the public officials of the three portfolios to whom questions were directed or referred for the information and expertise provided in their answers.

The Committee also thanks departments for the level of detail provided in the written answers to questions taken on notice at the hearing, and in the answers provided to questions supplied by the Committee prior to the hearing in accordance with Sessional Order 20(1). The Committee notes the cooperation extended by the Queensland Police Service and Queensland Corrective Services Commission in also providing, prior to the hearing, answers to additional questions supplied in accordance with Sessional Order 20(5).

The Committee greatly appreciates the support and assistance provided by the staff of the Committee Secretariat, Ms Karen Sampford, Research Director, Ms Meg Hoban, Research Officer and Ms Maree Lane, Executive Assistant during the Estimates process.

Mr Len Stephan MLA  
Chairperson

**Minutes of Meeting held on 11 September 1996****- M I N U T E S -**

**Minutes of a meeting of  
Estimates Committee "B"  
held on Wednesday, 11 September 1996 at 2.00 pm  
in Room 17.11 of the Parliamentary Annexe**

- Present:** Mr T Barton MLA  
Mr F Carroll MLA  
Mrs E Cunningham MLA  
Hon M Foley MLA  
Mr R Schwarten MLA  
Mr L Stephan MLA
- In attendance:** Ms Karen Sampford, Research Director  
Ms Meg Hoban, Research Officer
- Election of Chair:** The Research Director, with the approval of the Committee, called for nominations for Chair.
- Mr Foley nominated Mr Stephan, seconded by Mr Barton.
- There being no other nominations, Mr Stephan was elected Chair.
- Election of Deputy Chair:** Upon Mr Stephan assuming the Chair, he called for nominations for the position of Deputy Chair.
- Mr Schwarten nominated Mr Foley, seconded by Mr Barton.
- There being no other nominations, Mr Foley was declared Deputy Chair.
- Scheduling of Departments:** Discussion ensued.
- Agreed that the order for the consideration of portfolios be:
- Justice and Attorney-General
  - Police and Corrective Services, Racing
  - Queensland Emergency Services, Sport
- and that the time allocated for each portfolio be 3 hours.
- Further agreed that the order for dealing with program areas within each Department be spread over the full three hours but that this would be amended if necessary.

**Other Matters Relating to Public Hearing on 18 September:**Pre-hearing questions on notice

Agreed that the Committee meet at 5.00 pm on Thursday, 12 September 1996 to determine pre-hearing questions on notice.

Noted that answers to pre-hearing questions are to be received no later than 24 hours prior to the public hearing.

Questions taken on notice at hearing

Agreed that answers to questions taken on notice at the public hearing should be received by 5.00 pm on Monday, 23 September 1996.

Attendance by public officials at hearing

Agreed that the names of public officials requested to appear at the public hearing would be determined at the Committee's next meeting.

Lunch break for public hearing

Agreed to timing as per Sessional Orders.

**Televising of Public Hearing:**

Resolved to permit television and other media to video and otherwise record the public hearing of the Committee.

**Future Meetings:**

Agreed to the following meetings:

Thursday, 12 September 1996, 5.00 pm.  
Wednesday, 18 September 1996, 8.30 am.  
Tuesday, 1 October 1996, 9.00 am.

**Time and Date of Next Meeting:**

Agreed that the Committee would meet in B.27 at 5.00 pm on Thursday, 12 September 1996.

**Adjournment:**

The Committee adjourned at 2.07 pm.

**Confirmed this**

**day of**

**1996**

**Chairman**

**Minutes of Meeting held on 12 September 1996****- M I N U T E S -****Minutes of a meeting of  
Estimates Committee "B"  
held on Thursday, 12 September 1996 at 5.00 pm  
in Room B.27 of the Parliament House**

- Present:** Mr T Barton MLA  
Mr F Carroll MLA  
Mrs E Cunningham MLA  
Hon M Foley MLA  
Mr R Schwarten MLA  
Mr L Stephan MLA
- In attendance:** Ms Karen Sampford, Research Director  
Ms Meg Hoban, Research Officer
- Pre-hearing Questions on Notice:** Draft pre-hearing questions on notice were circulated to Members.
- On the motion of Mr Schwarten, seconded by Mr Barton:
- Agreed that all questions as circulated be put to the relevant Ministers.
- Further agreed that where more than 10 questions were circulated by Government Members, the first 7 listed questions from the National and Liberal Members be put to the Minister, together with 3 questions circulated by the Independent Member.
- Noted that any additional National and Liberal Members' questions would be put to Ministers under Section 20(5) of the Estimates Committee Sessional Orders.
- Names of public officials whom the Committee wishes to appear at public hearing:** Agreed that public officials, as per lists circulated at the meeting, be requested to appear at the public hearing.
- Resolved that if any Committee Member requires additional persons to appear, that Member could advise the Chairman who would request the official's attendance.
- Any other business:** Televising of public hearing
- The Chair tabled a letter received from Mrs Cunningham.
- Discussion ensued.
- Mrs Cunningham gave notice of her intention to move a motion at the next meeting relating to the televising



**Minutes of Meeting held on 13 September 1996****- M I N U T E S -**

**Minutes of a meeting of  
Estimates Committee "B"  
held on Friday, 13 September 1996 at 2.45 pm  
in Room 9.11 of the Parliamentary Annexe**

**Present:**

Mr T Barton MLA  
Mr F Carroll MLA  
Mrs E Cunningham MLA  
Hon M Foley MLA  
Mr R Schwarten MLA  
Mr L Stephan MLA

**In attendance:**

Ms Karen Sampford, Research Director  
Ms Meg Hoban, Research Officer

**Minutes of the previous meetings  
held on 11 September 1996 and  
12 September 1996:**

On the motion of Mr Barton, seconded by Mrs Cunningham, the minutes of the previous meetings held on 11 September 1996 and 12 September 1996 were confirmed.

**Televising of public hearing:**

Mrs Cunningham moved, seconded by Mr Carroll:  
That the resolution of 11 September 1996 be rescinded:

Debate ensued.

Question put:

Ayes

Mrs Cunningham  
Mr Carroll  
Mr Stephan

Noes

Mr Barton  
Mr Foley  
Mr Schwarten

The votes being equal, the Chair exercised his casting vote in the affirmative.

Motion carried.

The motion given notice of at the meeting of 12 September 1996 was circulated, namely:

*Having in mind the need to preserve the privacy of departmental officers, TV film coverage of the Estimates Committee "B" be allowed for the Chairman's opening comments and for each Minister's opening comments and that at other times audio and print coverage be allowed.*

Discussion ensued.

On the motion of Mr Foley, seconded by Mrs Cunningham, the following amendment was agreed:

Delete the words:  
*and for each Minister's  
opening comments*

Mrs Cunningham moved, seconded by Mr Carroll, that the circulated motion be adopted:

Question put:

Ayes

Noes

Mrs Cunningham

Mr Barton

Mr Carroll

Mr Foley

Mr Stephan

Mr Schwarten

The votes being equal, the Chair exercised his casting vote in the affirmative.

Motion carried.

**Time and Date of Next Meeting:**

Agreed that the Committee would meet in B.27 at 8.30 am on Wednesday, 18 September 1996.

**Adjournment:**

The Committee adjourned at 3.10 pm.

**Confirmed this**

**day of**

**1996**

**Chairman**

**Minutes of Meeting held on 18 September 1996****- M I N U T E S -****Minutes of a meeting of  
Estimates Committee "B"  
held on Wednesday, 18 September 1996 at 8.30 am  
in Room B.27 of Parliament House**

- Present:** Mr T Barton MLA  
Mr F Carroll MLA  
Mrs E Cunningham MLA  
Hon M Foley MLA  
Mr R Schwarten MLA  
Mr L Stephan MLA
- In attendance:** Ms Karen Sampford, Research Director  
Ms Meg Hoban, Research Officer
- Minutes of the previous meeting held on 13 September 1996:** The minutes of the previous meeting held on 13 September 1996 were discussed.
- Agreed to the following amendment:
- Televising of public hearing:*** page 2, paragraph 1, line 2, insert after the word *circulated*:
- namely,*
- Having in mind the need to preserve the privacy of departmental officers, TV film coverage of the Estimates Committee "B" be allowed for the Chairman's opening comments and for each Minister's opening comments and that at other times audio and print coverage be allowed.*
- The minutes, as amended, were confirmed.
- Answers to pre-hearing questions on notice:** Resolved that, pursuant to s 4(2) of the Parliamentary Papers Act, the Committee authorises the publication of the pre-hearing questions on notice, and the answers received.
- Other business:** **Time allotments for questions at the public hearing**
- Agreed that questions be taken in half hourly blocks by non-Government and Government members, and that any period of less than one hour be equally divided between non-Government and Government members.
- Attendance of invited public officials at the public hearing:**
- Discussion ensued.

Mr Barton conveyed to the Committee his dissatisfaction with the absence from the hearing of a number of senior officers from the portfolio area of Police and Corrective Services and Racing, namely Mr J O'Sullivan, Commissioner of Police, Mr K Hamburger, Director-General, Queensland Corrective Services Commission, and Messrs D Auer and J Graham of the Office of Racing.

Mr Carroll requested that it be noted that the Committee had requested the attendance of the above officials.

**Questions by non-Committee members at the public hearing**

The Committee noted that the Hon J Elder MLA, the Hon R Gibbs MLA, Ms J Spence MLA and Mr G Nuttall MLA would seek leave to ask questions during the hearing.

**Time and Date of Next Meeting:**

Agreed that the Committee would meet in B.27 at 9.00 am on Tuesday, 1 October 1996.

**Adjournment:**

The Committee adjourned at 8.45 am.

**Confirmed this**

**day of**

**1996**

**Chairman**

**Minutes of Public Hearing held on 18 September 1996****ESTIMATES COMMITTEE B****Minutes of Public Hearing  
held on 18 September 1996 commencing  
at 9.00 am in the Legislative Council Chamber,  
Parliament House****1. MEETING**

The Committee met in public session at 9.00 am. The Chairman, Mr Len Stephan MLA, 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 (No. 2) 1996 for the areas set out in the Sessional Orders.

**3. ATTENDANCE**

The following Members were present:

Mr T Barton MLA  
Mr F Carroll MLA  
Mrs E Cunningham MLA  
Hon M Foley MLA  
Mr R Schwarten MLA  
Mr L Stephan MLA

Also present: Ms Karen Sampford and Ms Meg Hoban.

**4. EXAMINATION OF ESTIMATES****Department of Justice**

The Committee examined proposed expenditure for organisational units within the portfolio of the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice.

In attendance was the Honourable D E Beanland MLA, Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, accompanied by the following officers:

At the Table

Mr K Martin	Director-General
Dr K Levy	Deputy Director-General
Mr F Clair	Chair, Criminal Justice Commission
Mr J Briton	Anti-Discrimination Commissioner
Mr G Hoffman	Local Government Commissioner
Mr N Lawson	Commissioner for Consumer Affairs
Mr J Hodgins	Director, Legal Aid Commission
Mr R Kidston	A/General Manager, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions
Mr M Byrne	Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions
Mr R Newton	A/Director, Corporate Services

Mr S McGrory	Management Accountant, Corporate Services
Mr D O'Shea	Electoral Commissioner
Mr B Read	A/Executive Director, Administration of Justice and Criminal Justice Programs

Others presentAdministration of Justice and Criminal Justice

Mr S Armitage	A/Director, Juvenile Justice
Mr S Harvey	Registrar of Justices and Manager
Mr G Robinson	Court Administrator
Mrs R Parisi	Administration Officer, Court of Appeal
Mr I McEwan	Director, State Reporting Bureau
Mr B MacGregor	Executive Manager, Courts Strategy and Research Branch
Mr R Miller QC	Director of Public Prosecutions
Mr W Vitali	A/Director, Administrative Law
Mr K Watts	Executive Director, Special Projects
Ms E Knight	Principal Project Officer, Courts Strategy and Research Branch
Mr P Condliffe	Project Officer, Alternative Dispute Resolution
Mr A Rahemtula	Supreme Court Librarian

Criminal Justice Commission

Mr G Brighton	Executive Director
Mr M Le Grand	Criminal Justice Commission
Mr M Barnes	Criminal Justice Commission

Legal Services Program

Ms M Herriot	Cabinet Legislation and Liaison Officer
Mr P Byrnes	A/Executive Director, Policy and Legislation Division
Mr B Dunphy	A/Crown Solicitor
Mr C Clarke	A/Executive Manager

Law Reform Commission

Ms C Reithmuller	Director
Ms Suzanne Fleming	Secretary

Legal Aid Office

Mr J Parisi	Manager, Corporate Services
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Community Affairs (Office of Consumer Affairs)

Mr G Ernst	Executive Manager, Licensing and Registration Branch
Mr G Morrow	Executive Manager, Client Services Branch
Ms T Aurisch	A/Director, Compliance and Legal Division
Ms L Roach	A/Director, Policy and Planning and Services Division
Mr P Kerr	Executive Manager, Commercial Supervision Branch
Mr G Samuel	Executive Manager, Investigations Branch
Mr M Beckett	A/Executive Manager, Trade Measurement Branch
Ms J King	Principal Licensing Officer
Ms A Dwyer	Management Accountant, Department of Emergency Services
Ms V Johnstone	Budget Officer
Ms D Lawrence	Executive Officer, Executive Support Unit

Corporate Services

Mr S Davey	Principal Consultant
Mr P Kent	Executive Manager, Human Resource Services

Electoral Commission

Mr G Lynch                      Manager, Administrative Services

Public Trust Office

Mr G Klein                      A/Public Trustee  
Mr T Lederle                      Director, Organisational Support

Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages

Mr G Schofield                      A/Registrar-General

The Committee examined the witnesses. Two letters from Mr F Clair, Chair, Criminal Justice Commission, to the Attorney-General were tabled.

Ms J Spence MLA, by leave, also asked questions.

**Suspension of Hearing**

The hearing was suspended at 11.00 am.

**Resumption of Hearing**

The hearing resumed at 11.10 am. The Committee concluded its examination and the witnesses withdrew.

**Queensland Police Service and Office of Racing, and Queensland Corrective Services Commission**

The Committee examined proposed expenditure for organisational units within the portfolio of the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing.

The Committee noted a corrigenda to p 1-33 of the Ministerial Program Statement.

In attendance was the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Racing, the Honourable R Cooper MLA, accompanied by the following officers:

At the Table

Mr S Macionis	A/Director-General
Mr I Stewart	A/Deputy Director-General
Mr P Rule	Director, Corporate Services
Mr B Peng	General Manager, Finance and Administration
Dep Comr W Aldrich	A/Commissioner of Police
Mr R Warry	Corporate Services
Mr R Carson	Administration Division, Corporate Services
Mr J Just	Finance Division, Corporate Services
Mr D Gill	Human Resources Division, Corporate Services
Asst Comr G Early	Assistant Commissioner (Metropolitan North)
Asst Comr J Banham	Assistant Commissioner (South Eastern)
Asst Comr K Scanlan	Assistant Commissioner (Southern)
Dr R Mason	Director, Office of Racing
Mr J Paterson	Manager, Racing Services Unit
Mr M Tolhurst	Executive Officer, Office of Racing

Others present

Mr D Johnson	A/Director, Audit
Mr K Corcoran	Director, Custodial Corrections
Mr G Chambers	Director, Community Corrections
Mr W Shennan	Director, Juvenile Detention
Ms A Hunter	A/Director, Offender Development
Mr R N McGibbon	Assistant Commissioner, Operations Support Command

Mr J Hardie	Manager, Human Resource Management Branch
Ms J Cameron	A/Principal Personnel Officer, Workforce Planning
Dr J Hann	Information Management Division, Corporate Services
Mr A Stephan	Information Resource Centre, Corporate Services
Mr T Livingstone	Information Systems Branch, Corporate Services

The Committee examined the witnesses. Mr G Nuttall MLA and Mr R Gibbs MLA, by leave, also asked questions.

### **Suspension of Hearing**

The hearing was suspended at 1.00 pm.

### **Resumption of Hearing**

The hearing resumed at 2.30 pm.

The Committee concluded its examination and the witnesses withdrew.

### **Suspension of Hearing**

The hearing was suspended at 4.30 pm.

### **Resumption of Hearing**

The hearing resumed at 4.40 pm with an examination of the proposed expenditure of the portfolio of the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport.

### **Department of Emergency Services and Office of Sport and Recreation**

The Committee examined the proposed expenditure for organisational units within the portfolio of the Minister for Emergency Services and Minister for Sport. In attendance was the Honourable M Veivers, Minister for Emergency Services and Sport, accompanied by the following officers:

#### At the Table

Mr J Hocken	Director-General, Department of Emergency Services
Dr G FitzGerald	Commissioner, Queensland Ambulance Service
Mr R Plastow	Executive Director, Office of Sport and Recreation
Mr I Whitehead	A/Director, Program Development, Office of Sport and Recreation
Mr K Rose	A/Director, State and Regional Development, Office of Sport and Recreation
Ms W Shakespear	Director, Academy of Sport, Office of Sport and Recreation
Mr M Kinnane	Executive Director, Support Services Division
Mr G Taylor	Director Finance, Support Services Division
Ms M Smith	Director, Human Resources, Support Services Division
Mr M Tiley	Director, Facilities and Asset Services, Support Services Division
Mr B Elder	Management Accountant, Support Services Division
Mr J Noye	A/Executive Director, Emergency Services Division
Mr M Hall	A/Commissioner, Queensland Fire Service
Mr D Luxton	A/Deputy Commissioner, Rural Operations, Queensland Fire Service
Mr A Brunner	Director, Chem Unit, Emergency Services Division

#### Others present

Ms R Lyall	Finance Officer, Office of Sport and Recreation
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## Minutes of Meeting held on 1 October 1996

### - M I N U T E S -

**Minutes of a meeting of  
Estimates Committee "B"  
held on Tuesday 1 October 1996 at 9.00 am  
in Room B.27 of Parliament House**

- Present:** Mr T Barton MLA  
Mr F Carroll MLA  
Mrs E Cunningham MLA  
Hon M Foley MLA  
Mr R Schwarten MLA  
Mr L Stephan MLA
- In attendance:** Ms Karen Sampford, Research Director  
Ms Meg Hoban, Research Officer
- Minutes of the previous meeting held on 18 September 1996:** On the motion of Mr Carroll, seconded by Mr Schwarten, the minutes of the private meeting held on Wednesday 18 September 1996 were confirmed.
- Minutes of Public Hearing:** On the motion of Mrs Cunningham, seconded by Mr Carroll, the minutes of the public hearing of the Committee held on Wednesday, 18 September 1996 were confirmed.
- Authorisation of Publication:** On the motion of Mr Barton, seconded by Mrs Cunningham, the Committee resolved to authorise the publication of documents tabled at the public hearing on 18 September 1996, the answers to questions taken on notice at the hearing, and other documents forwarded to the Committee.
- 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.
- After discussion, the Chairperson's Draft Report was amended.

### DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

The Committee agreed to the following amendment:

Last sentence, delete the word *representations*, add:

*representation of persons needing legal assistance.*

### Criminal Justice Commission's Budget

Mr Foley moved, seconded by Mr Schwarten, the following amendment:

Insert new final paragraph:

*The Committee does not accept the Minister's explanation for the budget cuts to the CJC and*

*notes that they will result in the CJC's ability to combat corruption being severely compromised.*

Debate ensued.

Question put:

Ayes

Mr Barton  
Mr Foley  
Mr Schwarten

Noes

Mrs Cunningham  
Mr Carroll  
Mr Stephan

The votes being equal, the Chair exercised his casting vote in the negative.

Motion defeated.

### **The Anti-Discrimination Commission**

On the motion of Mr Foley, seconded by Mrs Cunningham, the Committee resolved to make the following amendment:

Insert new final paragraph:

*The Committee expresses concern that any loss of the Commission's independence could result in a reduction of accessibility by the community.*

### **Appointment of Judges**

On the motion of Mr Foley, seconded by Mrs Cunningham, the Committee resolved to make the following amendment:

Insert new final paragraph:

*The Committee expresses concern that no budget provision has been made to increase the number of District and Supreme Court judges from the 1995-96 number of 53, to reflect the five additional District and Supreme Court judges pledged by the Coalition before the 1995 election.*

### **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Justices of the Peace**

On the motion of Mr Foley, seconded by Mr Barton, the Committee resolved to make the following amendment:

Insert new section:

#### ***Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Justices of the Peace***

*The Committee expresses concern that the cut in funding for training for justices of the peace/Magistrates Courts in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities may result in less opportunity for indigenous participation in the administration of justice.*

**QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE****Resource implications of the proposed Weapons Amendment Act**

On the motion of Mr Barton, seconded by Mrs Cunningham, the Committee resolved to make the following amendment:

Insert new final paragraph:

*The Committee expresses concern that the Minister was unable to advise how an \$8 million shortfall in funding, for the introduction of the Amendments to the Weapons Act, would be provided, if the Commonwealth offer has not increased. Advice from the Minister that the additional funding would “come from Treasury or, failing that, then the administration of the scheme itself, the buy-back scheme, and all of that may have to be downgraded to some extent. We may not be able to do it as well as we possibly can”, is highly unsatisfactory.*

**Unspent Capital Works**

Mr Barton moved, Mr Foley seconded, the following amendment:

Insert new final paragraph:

*The Committee expresses concern that half of the \$38 million Police Capital Works Budget is a result of \$19 million being unspent in the last financial year, and being continued into this financial year. This is unacceptable as it resulted in needed Police facilities not being provided. The re-adjustment of priorities in relation to Capital Works Expenditure was inadequately explained.*

Discussion ensued.

Question put:

Ayes

Mr Barton  
Mr Foley  
Mr Schwarten

Noes

Mrs Cunningham  
Mr Carroll  
Mr Stephan

The votes being equal, the Chair exercised his casting vote in the negative.

Motion defeated.

**Police Numbers**

Mr Barton moved, Mr Schwarten seconded, the following amendment:

Insert new section:

***Police Numbers***

*The Committee expresses concern that the increase in police numbers of 139 for 1996-97 as part of a planned increase of 800 over the next 3 years may not be able to be met, and the inadequate explanation of how these figures will be achieved in response to questions.*

Discussion ensued.

Question put:

Ayes

Noes

Mr Barton

Mrs Cunningham

Mr Foley

Mr Carroll

Mr Schwarten

Mr Stephan

The votes being equal, the Chair exercised his casting vote in the negative.

Motion defeated.

On the motion of Mrs Cunningham, seconded by Mr Barton, the Committee resolved to make the following amendment:

Insert new section:

***Police Numbers***

*The Committee reinforces the critical need to achieve the increase in police numbers as outlined in the answers given in response to questions on notice prior to the hearing.*

**Regional Police Budgets**

The Committee agreed to the following amendment:

Insert new section:

***Regional Police Budgets***

*The Committee expresses concern that the Regional Police Budgets have only been increased by 2.5% to 4% which does not allow for real increases in police services after allowing for the impact of inflation. This is in comparison to an overall Budget increase of 7.3% which is an indication that service delivery at operational police level may be diminished.*

**Speed Camera Revenue**

On the motion of Mr Barton, seconded by Mrs Cunningham, the Committee resolved to make the following amendment:

Insert new section:

***Speed Camera Revenue***

*The Committee expresses dissatisfaction that the introduction of speed cameras, whilst achieving some safety gains, will result in the*

*generation of a high increase in revenue to Treasury, due to issuing of additional tickets to a significant percentage of this state's drivers. This indicates that their introduction is revenue based, rather than singularly for road safety reasons.*

## **QUEENSLAND CORRECTIVE SERVICES COMMISSION**

### **Secure Custody Program Budget**

Mr Barton moved, seconded by Mr Schwarten, the following amendment:

Insert new section:

#### ***Secure Custody Program Budget***

*The Committee expresses concern that the Budget for the Queensland Corrective Services Commission, Secure Custody Program is based on criteria which cannot be met, namely:*

- the rate of increase in prison populations dropping from 20% to 7% / 8%,*
- an increase in revenue from Commercial Operations in prisons, which is against current trends and in an acknowledged "more competitive market place";*
- lower operating costs due to "savings initiatives".*

*The answers to questions on how the above will be achieved was less than convincing and inadequate in detail.*

Discussion ensued.

Question put:

#### Ayes

Mr Barton  
Mr Foley  
Mr Schwarten

#### Noes

Mrs Cunningham  
Mr Carroll  
Mr Stephan

The votes being equal, the Chair exercised his casting vote in the negative.

Motion defeated.

### **Juvenile Detention Program**

Mr Barton moved, seconded by Mr Schwarten, the following amendment:

Insert new section:

#### ***Juvenile Detention Program - Operating Costs Budget***

*The Committee expresses concern that the budget figures provided for the operating costs in the Queensland Corrective Services*

*Commission, Juvenile Detention Program are based on criteria which cannot be met. This budget is \$2.79 million lower than actual expenditure last year, despite predictions that numbers of inmates will increase significantly from 145 to an estimated 175. The lower costs are premised on lower staff numbers, and cost savings due to improved work practices, which is totally contrary to current trends.*

*The advice provided, when questioned on the detail of this issue that this Budget "is still subject to further finalisation", and that: "There has been a three month review time allowed for finalising that Budget and looking at what the exact requirements for that Budget will be" is unacceptable and not credible. There is either a Budget before the Committee and the Parliament or there is not.*

Discussion ensued.

Question put:

Ayes

Noes

Mr Barton

Mrs Cunningham

Mr Foley

Mr Carroll

Mr Schwarten

Mr Stephan

The votes being equal, the Chair exercised his casting vote in the negative.

Motion defeated.

## **DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES**

### **Rescue Helicopter Services**

On the motion of Mr Schwarten, seconded by Mrs Cunningham, the Committee resolved to make the following amendment:

Insert new final paragraph:

*The Committee observes that the budget material presented to the Committee made no provision for \$3 million Capital Funding for the Rockhampton and Mackay Helicopter services as previously pledged.*

### **Waiting List for Fire Appliances**

The Committee agreed to the following amendments:

First sentence to now read:

*The Committee questioned the Queensland Emergency Service on the waiting list for rural fire appliances.*

Insert new final paragraph:

*This reflects the reduction in the budget to rural fires from \$7.8 million in 1995-96 to*

\$6.3 million in 1996-97.

**Consultancy for Ambulance Services**

Mr Schwarten moved, seconded by Mr Foley, the following amendment:

Insert new section:

***Consultancy for Ambulance Services***

*The Committee expresses concern at the lack of explanation for the consultancy awarded to Ms Lyn Staib in relation to the Ambulance Service.*

Discussion ensued.

Question put:

Ayes

Noes

Mr Barton

Mrs Cunningham

Mr Foley

Mr Carroll

Mr Schwarten

Mr Stephan

The votes being equal, the Chair exercised his casting vote in the negative.

Motion defeated.

**PROCEDURAL MATTERS**

Mr Foley moved, seconded by Mr Schwarten, the following amendment:

Insert new final paragraph:

*The Committee expresses concern at criticisms by the Premier and Attorney-General to Mr Clair's timing in giving his evidence, when Mr Clair was merely carrying out his duty as a witness in responding to questions put by this all-party Parliamentary committee.*

Discussion ensued.

Question put:

Ayes

Noes

Mr Barton

Mrs Cunningham

Mr Foley

Mr Carroll

Mr Schwarten

Mr Stephan

The votes being equal, the Chair exercised his casting vote in the negative.

Motion defeated.

Mrs Cunningham moved, seconded by Mr Carroll, the following amendment:

Final paragraph, delete the words:

*rather than seeking the Estimates Committee as a forum.*

Discussion ensued.

Question put:

Ayes

Noes

Mrs Cunningham            Mr Barton  
Mr Carroll                    Mr Foley  
Mr Stephan                   Mr Schwarten

The votes being equal, the Chair exercised his casting vote in the affirmative.

Motion carried.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

The Committee agreed to the following amendment:  
Final paragraph, replace the word *acknowledges* with the words *greatly appreciates*.

#### **Adoption of Report and Approval for Tabling:**

On the motion of Mr Carroll, seconded by Mrs Cunningham, the report, as amended, was adopted.

On the motion of Mr Carroll, seconded by Mr Foley, the Committee resolved that the report, as amended, be approved for tabling, together with supplementary material.

#### **Resolution to approve Departmental Estimates:**

On the motion of Mr Carroll, seconded by Mrs Cunningham, it was resolved that the proposed expenditures in the Appropriation Bill (No 2) 1996 for the organisational units referred to the Committee under the Sessional Orders of 3 September 1996 be agreed to.

#### **Statement of Reservations:**

Messrs Barton, Foley and Schwarten indicated that they would be preparing reservations to the report.

#### **Acknowledgments:**

The Chairperson thanked all Members for their cooperation.

#### **Adjournment:**

The Committee adjourned at 12.50 pm.

Certified correct this

day of

1996



Chairman