

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE D

REPORT TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF QUEENSLAND

8 October 1996

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE D

CHAIRMAN:	Ms Lyn Warwick MLA (Member for Barron River)
DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:	Mr Rod Welford MLA (Member for Everton)
MEMBERS:	Mrs Lorraine Bird MLA (Member for Whitsunday) The Hon. Terry Mackenroth MLA (Member for Chatsworth) Mr Robert Mitchell MLA (Member for Charters Towers) Mr Marc Rowell MLA (Member for Hinchinbrook)
RESEARCH DIRECTOR:	Mr David Thannhauser
RESEARCH OFFICER:	Ms Megan Collins
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT:	Ms Cassandra Adams

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 On 3 September 1996 the Legislative Assembly appointed seven Estimates Committees to inquire into the proposed expenditures contained in the Appropriation Bill (No.2) 1996 and the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No.2) 1996.
- 1.2 Under the Sessional Orders adopted by the Assembly on that day, this Committee was allocated the organisational units within the following Departments:
 - The Department of Environment
 - The Department of Local Government and Planning
 - The Department of Tourism, Small Business and Industry
- 1.3 Estimates Committee D has now considered those estimates referred to it and has met in public session to receive evidence from the relevant Ministers and supporting officers. Accordingly, Estimates Committee D presents this Report to the Legislative Assembly.
- 1.4 Additional information, received as a result of questions asked before and during the public session, will be presented to the House as a volume of Additional Information.
- 1.5 Answers were received by the Committee to all questions taken on notice and the Committee was satisfied with the attendance at the hearing of those public officials invited to attend by the Committee.
- 1.6 The Committee asked twenty pre-hearing questions on notice to the Minister for Environment and ten pre-hearing questions on notice respectively to the Minister for Local Government and Planning and the Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry. Four questions were taken on notice at the public hearing by the Minister for Environment, two by the Minister for Local Government and Planning and one by the Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry.
- 1.7 One non-Committee Member, Mr Peter Beattie MLA, was granted leave to attend the Committee's public session and asked questions of the Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry.

2. EXAMINATION OF THE PROPOSED EXPENDITURE

ESTIMATES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT

- 2.1 The Committee examined proposed expenditure of \$170.276 million, an increase of 5.8 per cent from the 1995-96 budget allocation. Estimated expenditure for the Environment program is \$34.112 million. The Conservation program has been allocated estimated expenditure of \$136.164 million.

Departmental Savings

- 2.2 In response to questioning as to how the Department achieved \$5.6 million in savings for 1996-97, the Committee was advised that \$726,000 was saved in Corporate Services through outsourcing functions such as information technology and decentralising human resources and financial management functions. It was explained that the bulk of the Departmental savings was achieved through the termination of various existing initiatives. However, the Department was continuing other initiatives already in place such as the Daintree Rescue program, mahogany glider funding and funding for Koala Coast land acquisition.

National Park User Fees

- 2.3 The Committee was informed that the new national park user fees were expected to raise \$1.1 million in 1996-97. The Minister stated that the introduction of fees for people accessing national parks and protected areas of Queensland would bring Queensland into line with other States and that the level of fees being introduced was comparable.
- 2.4 It is intended that Park Pass would commence on 1 March 1997, its application extending to commercial operators on 1 January 1998. The Committee was told that measures were still being developed to recover the park user fees, however, it was anticipated that most of the revenue generated in the first year of operation would be absorbed by establishment costs and the considerable advertising costs associated with the new scheme. The Committee was informed that forward estimated revenue concerning park user fees for 1997-98 and 1998-99 is \$4.5 million per year.

Environmental Franchise Fees

- 2.5 The Committee inquired into the proposed environmental franchise fees on tyres and oil. The Committee was informed that \$8 million was expected to be raised by the fees in 1996-97.

- 2.6 The Committee was advised that it is intended that the full \$8 million would be returned to the Environment program, with \$4.5 million to be allocated to the Waste Management Branch. Of this amount, \$2 million would be directed to the provision of rebates to industry to encourage sustainable collection, recycling and disposal for waste tyres and oil. The remaining \$3.5 million of the \$8 million collected is to be allocated to the Environment Protection program under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (EPA).

Other Anticipated Revenue

- 2.7 The Committee was advised that further components of the \$9.803 million total for the new initiatives revenue item in the Ministerial Program Statements included \$450,000 in the Regulated Waste Levy and \$400,000 related to the Contaminated Land program.
- 2.8 1996-97 increases in existing sources of revenue were anticipated to include the additional collection of \$135,000 in camping fees and an additional \$901,000 in Queensland recreational area management fees, namely fees recovered from users of Fraser Island, Moreton Island and Green Island.

Threatened Species

- 2.9 The Committee was told of the planned formation of a Threatened Species and Communities Unit. The new unit will create WildNet, an integrated data base of Queensland wildlife. WildNet will incorporate information already gathered through Nature Search.
- 2.10 In response to specific concerns raised by the Committee regarding proposed cuts in the conservation program dealing with sea turtles, the Committee was advised that these cuts were to be counterbalanced by an expected research grant of approximately \$400,000 from a Japanese corporation for studies involving turtles, particularly hawksbill turtles.

Coastal Management

- 2.11 The Committee was advised that the \$2.7 million reduction in the coastal management budget reflected variations between estimated and actual expenditure in 1995-96 for specific programs. Due to contract delays, the initial estimated expenditure of \$3.8 million for the Tweed River Entrance Bypass program was reduced to \$1.47 million and the outstanding amount deferred until 1996-97. In addition, the 1995-96 allocation of \$2.5 million for coastal planning, Coast Care and marine conservation resulted in only \$1.635 being expended because of various delays, those unexpended funds being treated as program savings and reallocated outside the Coastal Management subprogram.

Wet Tropics Management Authority

- 2.12 The Committee was informed of decreased funding for the Wet Tropics Management Authority from both Commonwealth and State sources. The State component of recurrent funding in 1995-96 was \$2.868 million and for 1996-97 is \$1.492 million. As at 30 June 1996, 39 staff, including temporary and contract staff, were employed by the Authority. This figure is expected to be 30 by the end of the financial year.
- 2.13 The capital funds allocated to the Authority for this financial year is \$308,000 and is comprised of both Commonwealth and State funds carried over from previous years.

National Parks and Wildlife

- 2.14 The Committee noted a decline in the aggregate budget for National Parks and Wildlife from the 1995-96 actual expenditure of \$47.222 million to an 1996-97 estimated expenditure of \$42.870 million. The Committee was notified of ongoing structural problems with regards to the funding of the National Parks program in that, in the past, land acquisitions had not been met with desirable levels of associated funding for management of the increased size of the national park estate.

Fraser Island

- 2.15 The Committee notes that, in 1996-97, \$5.366 million is proposed to be allocated for the management of the Great Sandy region. That amount includes \$3.5 million to be spent on management operation within the Fraser Island World Heritage area, including more than \$1 million to be spent on capital works.

Environmental Protection Act

- 2.16 The Committee notes the full implementation of the EPA and the Department's role in issuing environmental licenses, completing of environmental management programs and carrying out prosecutions under the Act. The Committee acknowledges the level of support provided by the Department to local government when administering the activities devolved under the EPA. The Committee notes that the number of inspectors in regional offices has increased in the last twelve months from 36 to 51.
- 2.17 The Committee acknowledges the extensive public consultation processes involved in the continuing development of environmental protection policies (EPPs) for Air, Water, Noise, Greenhouse and the Mining and Petroleum Industries. In particular, the Committee notes the EPP (Waste Management) and the associated Waste Regulation currently under development.

Nominations for Heritage Listing

- 2.18 The Committee was informed of a current backlog of 717 places in nominations for heritage listing. At the same time, the Committee was assured that staffing levels are now adequate to process the backlog, particularly in light of the recently-completed Heritage Railway Places and Heritage Mining Places surveys. These surveys will provide valuable data to assist the processing of a number of outstanding nominations.

Other Matters Examined by the Committee

- 2.19 Other lines of inquiry pursued by the Committee related to matters such as: the role of the Department in assessing the impact of development projects; funding for Coast Care; programs for the management of Moreton Bay; heritage tourism; the impact of park user fees on Great Barrier Reef Island tourism; the cultural heritage interests of indigenous people; the Sugar Coast protection package; the comparative impact of the new environmental franchise fees on rural and urban areas; the timeliness of entering sites on the Contaminated Site Register; hazardous waste management; and the State-wide waste tracking system.

ESTIMATES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PLANNING

- 2.20 The Committee examined proposed expenditure of \$414.492 million.
- 2.21 The present organisational structure of the Department of Local Government and Planning was established in February 1996 following the separation of the Housing program from the Local Government, Planning and Rural Communities programs. Corporate Services was formally separated in July 1996 and the Building Standards program, previously administered through planning, was established as a separate program at that time.

Departmental Savings

- 2.22 In its pre-Hearing questions on notice to the Minister, the Committee inquired into the components of the \$10.3 million in savings achieved by the Department for 1996-97. The Minister's reply indicated that the most substantial savings were achieved in the following areas: a ten per cent reduction in Head Office staff and administrative costs in all program areas, \$1.708 million; further downsizing of the Planning program in addition to the ten per cent reduction, \$585,000; the elimination of Local Government pensioner concessions, \$580,000; the discontinuance of the Regional Open Space System (ROSS), \$2.86 million and savings related to the Queensland Nutrient program, \$4 million.

Corporate Services

- 2.23 The Committee notes that, while the Ministerial Program Statements state that key savings were made in administrative and corporate services and there had been a reduction in non-Corporate Services staff, there has been a staffing level increase in Corporate Services from 5 to 36. The Committee was informed that this apparent discrepancy is explained by the fact that when the Housing program was removed from the Department's former structure the Department was effectively left without its own corporate services, necessitating the additional staffing.
- 2.24 During the public session and in an answer to a question taken on notice, the Minister informed the Committee that various means of providing corporate support to the Department in a cost-effective manner had been assessed. It was decided that the bulk of corporate services should be in-house with some services outsourced where that could be achieved cheaply and reliably.

Regional Open Space System

- 2.25 While ROSS has been discontinued, the Committee notes that there is more money allocated for the 1996-97 estimate than the 1995-96 actual because of funding required to meet existing commitments and to maintain land that has been bought previously. The Committee was supplied with a breakdown of the components of the \$847,000 estimated expenditure for ROSS for 1996-97.

Sewerage And Water Supply Subsidy Program

- 2.26 The Committee queried how the Department intended to fund its new initiative of the sewerage and water supply subsidy program of around \$600 million over 10 years. In response, the Minister indicated that amongst the moneys to be allocated to the subsidy program over the next 10 years, were the savings of \$10.3 million achieved in administrative costs for 1996-97 and additional amounts provided in the Budget and Forward Estimates, namely, \$20 million in 1996-97, \$40 million in 1997-98 and \$45 million in 1998-99.

Planning and Development Legislation

- 2.27 The Committee acknowledges the continued drafting of the proposed *Integrated Planning Act* (IPA), developed from the former Exposure Draft of the Planning, Environment and Development Assessment (PEDA) legislation. The Committee also acknowledges the Department's projections of potential savings to Government and business of \$630 million over ten years following the introduction of the Act through enhanced and integrated impact assessment procedures, reduced approval times for development applications and more efficient infrastructure delivery.

Local Approval Review Program

- 2.28 The Minister told the Committee that the Local Approval Review Program (LARP) had, with moderate expenditure, achieved significant savings in approval processing time for the participating councils. The Committee noted the reduction in Commonwealth funding for LARP and was advised as to the availability and sources of funds for LARP in the coming financial year. For LARP A, a total of \$118,000 has been allocated for 1996-97, \$16,000 of which is the estimate for 1996-97 with a carry-over of \$102,000. LARP B comprises \$94,000 estimated for 1996-97 with a carry-over of \$49,000, totalling an \$143,000 allocation.

Application of the National Competition Policy to Local Government

- 2.29 The Committee notes that planned performance for 1996-97 includes developing legislation to effect the Statement on the Application of National Competition Policy to Local Government issued by the Department in July 1996. The Committee notes the priority placed on establishing corporatisation and commercialisation frameworks for the significant business activities of local government and on working with local governments to effect implementation of national competition policy.

Other Local Government Program Issues

- 2.30 The Committee notes that unrequited transfers for Local Government amounting to \$44.893 million represents the unexpended balances from various 1995-96 allocations for grant assisted programs administered by the Department and that the majority of these funds carry forward to 1996-97. The Committee was assured that the Department was taking specific steps, such as improving adherence to cash flow projections and strictly enforcing the time limits for infrastructure grants and subsidies programs, to enable more timely delivery of such programs in the future.
- 2.31 The Committee was informed about the proposed protocol to be developed with the Local Government Association of Queensland to set out the full range of respective roles and responsibilities of the State and local governments. The Committee was also informed about legislative proposals for codes of conduct for councillors.

Support for Rural Women

- 2.32 The Committee questioned the \$10,000 in savings to be delivered through cutting the Department's support for the ABC Rural Woman of the Year Award. The Committee was told that the Department would also be reducing its support for the Queensland Women's Rural Network by \$20,000 and, as a matter of realigned priorities, the Department will instead be allocating \$30,000 to the Peak Council for Rural and Country Women in Queensland.

Other Matters Examined by the Committee

- 2.33 Other matters examined by the Committee included the following: the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Infrastructure program; the impact of a downsized QDIAL show circuit; distribution of Commonwealth financial assistance grants; the adoption of accrual accounting practices by councils; the Kuranda rail levy; the SEQ 2001 and FNQ 2010 Regional Growth Management Frameworks; costs incurred by the Department in developing legislation to enable possible deamalgamation of some local government areas; the Conservation of Koalas in the Koala Coast Policy; the costs associated with and membership of the Rural Communities Committee, the Geographic Information System and the Department's response to reduced Commonwealth funding for Building Better Cities.

ESTIMATES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, SMALL BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

- 2.34 The Committee examined proposed expenditure of \$139.819 million, a 2.9 per cent increase over actual total outlays for 1995-1996, and a 1.3 per cent increase over the budget allocation for 1995-1996.
- 2.35 In February 1996, the former Department of Business, Industry and Regional Development (DBIRD) amalgamated with the Tourism and Liquor Licensing functions of the former Department of Tourism, Sport and Youth to constitute the current Department. The Committee notes the establishment of the Office of Tourism as a distinct Office within the Department designed to support the Queensland tourism industry.

Savings

- 2.36 Specific information was sought by the Committee as to what constituted the \$16.742 million in Departmental savings referred to in the Budget Overview. The Committee was advised that this was composed of savings from such initiatives as the integration of the Queensland Small Business Corporation into the Department, the replacement of QRIG with Innovative Queensland and savings of \$6.195 million relating to special projects, the most substantial components of which were savings relating to the Queensland Tourism and Travel Corporation (QTTC) and the surrendering of carryovers which had been re-instated to the former DBIRD.

Corporate Services Staffing

- 2.37 It was noted that the number of positions in the Corporate Services program decreased from 122 in 1995-96 to an estimate of 105 in 1996-97. The Committee was advised that this reduction occurred through efficiencies resulting from the amalgamation of the former DBIRD with the former Department of Tourism, Sport and Youth. A single Corporate Services unit

would now eliminate duplication, for example, only one Human Resource Management area was needed to support the whole Department, instead of the previous two HRM areas.

Queensland Small Business Corporation

- 2.38 The Committee queried the impact of the closure of the Queensland Small Business Corporation (QBSC) on the level of services provided to small business. The Minister stated that services previously provided to small business by the QBSC would continue to be provided by the Department directly. The Minister further described savings of \$500,000 in the first year and \$1.7 million in the second year as accruing from the QBSC's integration into the Department.

Regulatory Reform

- 2.39 The Minister stated that a Queensland Small Business Council has been established to provide advice to the Government on a range of small business issues.
- 2.40 The Minister informed the Committee that the existing Business Regulation Review Unit, which currently deals with regulatory reform, will be closed and its basic functions amalgamated with those of the existing Strategic Planning and Policy Branch to form a new business environment branch.
- 2.41 The Committee questioned the Minister about how the new Red Tape Reduction Task Force (RTRTF) was expected to actually improve the situation in which the growth of small businesses was hindered by costs related to compliance with Government regulations and charges.
- 2.42 The Minister replied that the RTRTF, an independent body comprising members from a number of peak industry groups and chaired by a business person, would concentrate on identifying six to eight priority areas which would be earmarked for Government action.

Sydney 2000 Olympic Games

- 2.43 \$458,000 is currently allocated within the 1996-97 estimates for the Olympic 2000 Task Force, an increase of 12.5 per cent. The Committee noted an increase of about 10 per cent in Salaries, Wages and Related Payments in the Industry and Technology program attributed in part to an increase in activity for Olympics business opportunities.
- 2.44 The Committee sought information from the Minister about how Queensland would benefit from the Sydney 2000 Olympics and what activities the Department was undertaking to optimise Queensland's capturing of opportunities associated with the event.

- 2.45 The Minister outlined potential benefits in terms of tourism, sport, business, special events and the arts. The Committee was informed that the Department had established a specific unit in June 1996 to facilitate the access of Queensland firms to Olympic business activities. The unit's function has been to enhance existing business networks and to implement an effective system for the collection, management and dissemination of information regarding Olympic opportunities. The Minister added that a hotline had been established and that some contracts associated with the 2000 Olympics had already been won by Queensland companies.

Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation Promotions

- 2.46 On the issue of the promotional budget of the QTTC, the Committee was told that, of the total 1996-97 budget for the QTTC of \$29.885 million, approximately \$21.8 million will be spent on marketing. This amount excluded all labour and operational costs.

Queensland Events Corporation

- 2.47 The Committee sought information as to the future direction of the Queensland Events Corporation (QEC). The Minister advised that funding had been increased by \$714,000, bringing total funding for the QEC to \$2,434,000. Currently, a new Board is being approved. The QEC will seek to compete more intensely against other states for the staging of major events.
- 2.48 The Committee queried the cancellation of the Asia Pacific Racing Forum which resulted in a loss of \$480,000. The Minister stated that \$400,000 had been lost by the Racing Development Fund and that the Queensland Events Corporation had lost \$80,000 in the event. The cancellation of the event occurred because it had been decided that considerable additional loss would have been incurred if the event had been allowed to continue.

Great Barrier Reef Tourism

- 2.49 In response to questioning, the Minister assured the Committee that he had raised concerns with the Commonwealth Government about recent increases in the Commonwealth's environmental management charge (EMC) and the impact of the charge on Great Barrier Reef Tourism operators. In addition the Minister acknowledged concerns expressed at the hearing by the Committee as to any additional impact which State-based recreational area management (RAM) fees and park user fees may have on Great Barrier Reef tourism.

Business Advice For Rural Areas Program

- 2.50 In response to a question regarding the withdrawal of Commonwealth funds from the Business Advice for Rural Areas program, the Committee was advised

that the Department will provide \$350,000 this financial year to fund positions which Commonwealth funding had previously supported.

Fixed Capital Expenditure

- 2.51 The Committee considered the Fixed Capital Expenditure line in the Regional and Project Development program and inquired as to why \$15.5 million was budgeted in 1995-96 resulting in only \$4.7 million being expended, with a subsequent estimate of \$15.3 million being submitted for 1996-97. The Minister attributed the variations during 1995-96 to various delays, with completion of most projects anticipated for 1996-97.

Information Technology and Telecommunication

- 2.52 The Committee was informed that Queensland's information technology and telecommunication industry is worth over \$2 billion annually, employs over 10,000 people and currently exports over \$100 million annually. The Committee notes with approval the proposed establishment of the Silicon Studio Training Centre to provide high-level training in the entertainment and multimedia industry with a view to, amongst other things, retain film post-production work in Queensland. Likewise, the Committee notes the proposed establishment of the Silicon Works Centre to help Queensland business access advanced computing and multimedia technology.

Other Matters

- 2.53 Other matters examined by the Committee included the following: environmental tourism; addressing the needs of the workforce and business improvements in the tourism industry; the impact of the bank account debit tax on small business; liquor licensing; gender equity within the Department; the food processing sector; potential land shortage for business and industry; the Kennedy Report as it related to the QTTC; Brisbane's status as the second busiest airport in Australia; issues related to the 1997 IndyCar Australia Event; Innovative Queensland; and the Main Street Program.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The Committee agrees to the proposed expenditures contained in the Appropriation Bill (No.2) 1996 for the organisational units referred to it under the Sessional Orders of 3 September 1996.

4. OBSERVATIONS ON THE ESTIMATES PROCESS

- 4.1 In July 1996, the Queensland Select Committee of Procedural Review published its Report on the Review of the Estimates Committee Process. The report

reviewed the Sessional Orders and procedures which have been adopted since the Estimates Committee process began in 1994. The Committee is mindful of the recommendations contained in the Select Committee's Report and the consequent changes made to this year's Sessional orders in making the following comments regarding this third year of the estimates process.

- 4.2 On the whole, the Committee believes that the changes made to this year's estimates process as a result of the recommendations contained in the Select Committee on Procedural Review have improved the ability of Parliamentary Estimates Committees to properly scrutinise the Executive's proposed expenditures. The Committee welcomes the new procedure whereby the Committee may invite particular public officials associated with the Department to attend the hearing, at which they may be questioned. However, the Committee notes that, unlike most other Parliamentary Committees, Estimates Committees do not have the general authority to compel the attendance of persons or the production of documents and other things.
- 4.3 The Committee welcomes the removal from the Sessional Orders of the exemption which previously deemed the proposed expenditures of Government Owned Corporations to be outside the scrutiny of the estimates process.
- 4.4 In terms of procedures followed at the public hearing, the Committee also welcomes the removal of the requirement that times for questions and answers be subject to twenty-minute block rotations for Government and non-Government Members. The absence of that requirement, combined with the continuing safeguard that non-Government Members be allocated at least half of the time available, enables the Committee to take a fair but flexible approach to time allocation, assuring that lines of questioning are not artificially interrupted.
- 4.5 The Committee commends the introduction of one of the suggestions contained in the 1995 Report to the Legislative Assembly of Estimates Committee D - the mechanism whereby the Committee may ask, and the Minister must answer, up to twenty questions on notice prior to the hearing. The Committee believes that the forwarding of pre-hearing questions enables Members to clarify any uncertainties contained in the Ministerial Program Statements and other budget papers, as well as explore further the statements and figures contained in those documents.

5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

[Original Signed]

Lyn Warwick MLA
Chairman

6. MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE D

**Minutes of Meeting held on 11 September 1996
at 8.07 am in Room B.27
Parliament House, Brisbane**

Present: Ms Lyn Warwick MLA (Chairman)
Mr Rod Welford MLA (Deputy Chairman)
Ms Lorraine Bird MLA
Hon Terry Mackenroth MLA
Mr Robert Mitchell MLA
Mr Marc Rowell MLA

In attendance: Mr David Thannhauser, Research Director
Ms Megan Collins, Research Officer

1 Appointment of Committee

The Research Director referred to the Sessional Orders adopted by the Legislative Assembly on 3 September 1996 appointing Estimates Committees and announced that, pursuant to a resolution of the House on 4 September 1996, the above listed Members were appointed Members of Estimates Committee D.

2 Election of Chairman

By leave of the Committee, the Research Director proceeded to the election of the Chairman.

Ms Warwick was nominated by Mr Rowell and seconded by Mr Welford.

There being no further nominations, Ms Warwick was declared elected and assumed the Chair.

3 Election of Deputy Chairman

The Chairman called for nominations for the position of Deputy Chairman.

Mr Welford was nominated by Hon Mackenroth and seconded by Mr Mitchell.

There being no further nominations, Mr Welford was declared elected.

4 Questions on Notice and Requests for Public Officials to Attend

The Chairman proposed that twelve questions on notice be provided by the Opposition and twelve questions be provided by Government Members. The Committee noted that the Minister is only obliged to answer twenty questions, of which at least ten must be Opposition questions.

The Committee agreed, after discussion, that:

- Government and Non-Government Members finalise their questions on notice prior to the Hearing by the Committee's meeting on Friday 13 September and present the questions at that meeting;
- The Committee consider the pre-Hearing questions on notice at its meeting on Friday 13 September in order to determine the set of (up to) twenty questions to be forwarded to each Minister; and
- Requests for the attendance of public officials should be finalised by Members prior to the Committee's meeting on 13 September, at which the Committee will consider the requests.

5 Allocation of Times for Departments

The Chairman circulated a list of possible time allocations for Departments for consideration by Members.

The Committee agreed, after discussion, that the finalisation of time allocations for Departments be deferred until its next meeting.

6 General Business

The Committee agreed, after discussion, that:

- Answers to questions taken on notice during the Hearing be required to be forwarded to the Committee by 4.00pm on Thursday 26 September, unless otherwise ordered;
- In accordance with the Sessional Orders, leave be given to non-Committee Members to ask questions during the Hearing, unless an objection is raised at the time by the Chairman or a Member;
- In accordance with paragraph 9 of the Procedures for Witnesses Appearing Before Parliamentary Committees, any deliberations on Chairman's rulings be conducted in private;
- No 'at Table' briefings by Members' staff take place at the Hearing;

-
- If the time allocation for a Department is not substantially filled during the Hearing, the Committee suspend until the starting time for the next period; and
 - Ministers to be permitted to make a short introductory statement.

The Committee also discussed the method of allocating time periods between Government and non-Government Members at the Hearing.

7 Next Meeting

The Committee agreed that it would next meet on Friday 13 September 1996 at 1.00pm in Room B.27 of Parliament House.

8 Adjournment

There being no further business, the Committee adjourned at 8.40am.

Confirmed this thirteenth day of September 1996.

[Original Signed]

Chairman

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE D

**Minutes of a Meeting held on 13 September 1996
at 1.05 pm in Room B.27
Parliament House, Brisbane**

Present: Ms Lyn Warwick MLA (Chairman)
Mr Rod Welford MLA (Deputy Chairman) (from 1.12pm)
Ms Lorraine Bird MLA
Hon Terry Mackenroth MLA
Mr Robert Mitchell MLA
Mr Marc Rowell MLA

In attendance: Mr David Thannhauser, Research Director
Ms Megan Collins, Research Officer

1 Confirmation of Minutes of the Previous Meeting

On the motion of the Honourable Terry Mackenroth, seconded by Mr Mitchell, the minutes of the Meeting held on 11 September 1996 were confirmed.

2 Allocations of Order and Times for Departments

The Chairman circulated a list of possible time allocations for Departments for consideration by Members of the Committee.

Discussion ensued.

On the motion of Hon Mackenroth seconded by Mr Mitchell it was resolved:

That the following allocation and timetable be adopted for the Hearing to be held on 20 September 1996:

Minister for Environment	9.00am - 10.45am
Morning Tea	10.45am - 11.00am
Minister for Environment	11.00am - 12.30am
Minister for Local Government and Planning	12.30am - 1.00pm

Lunch	1.00pm - 2.30pm
Minister for Local Government and Planning	2.30pm - 4.00pm
Afternoon Tea	4.00pm - 4.15pm
Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry	4.15pm - 5.45pm
Break	5.45pm - 6.00pm
Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry	6.00pm - 7.30pm

Total Times Allocated for the Departments:

Environment	3 hours, 15mins
Local Government and Planning	2 hours
Tourism, Small Business and Industry	3 hours

3 Requests for Public Officials

Hon Mackenroth, Ms Bird and Mr Welford (following his arrival at 1.12pm) indicated the public officials whom they wished to be available at the Hearing.

4 Pre-Hearing Questions on Notice

Hon Mackenroth and Ms Bird indicated that they had no pre-Hearing Questions on Notice to forward to Ministers. Upon his arrival, Mr Welford indicated that he would produce his questions to the Research Director by 5.00pm that day.

5 Televising of Hearing

Mr Rowell moved:

That, having in mind the need to preserve the integrity of public servants, TV film coverage of the estimate Committee D be allowed for the Chairman's opening comments and for each Ministers' opening comments and that at other times audio coverage be allowed.

The motion was seconded by Mr Mitchell.

The motion was opposed by Hon Mackenroth who stated that televising should operate under the same rules as in the Chamber.

Voting ensued.

Ayes: Ms Warwick, Mr Mitchell and Mr Rowell.

Noes: Hon Mackenroth and Ms Bird.

Mr Welford was absent for the vote.

The motion was carried.

6 Schedule of Meeting Dates

The Chair distributed a schedule of post-Hearing meeting dates.

Agreed that, following the Hearing, the Committee meet on 1 October 1996, unless otherwise arranged, to consider the Chairman's Draft Report.

7 Allocation of Questioning Times

Agreed that questioning time at the Hearing would be allocated to non-Government and Government Members in alternating twenty minute blocks, but that Members would be permitted to exceed the twenty minute periods if pursuing a particular line of inquiry. Non-Government Members would be assured of at least half of the time available.

8 Next Meeting

The Committee agreed that it would next meet on Friday 20 September 1996 at 8.30am in Room B.27 of Parliament House.

9 Adjournment

There being no further business, the Committee adjourned at 1.21 pm.

Confirmed this first day of October 1996.

[Original Signed]

Chairman

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS ESTIMATES COMMITTEE D

**Minutes of Meeting held on 20 September 1996
at 8.37 am in Room B.27
Parliament House, Brisbane**

Present: Ms Lyn Warwick MLA (Chairman)
Mr Rod Welford MLA (Deputy Chairman)
Hon Terry Mackenroth MLA
Mr Robert Mitchell MLA
Mr Marc Rowell MLA

Apologies: Ms Lorraine Bird MLA

In attendance: Mr David Thannhauser, Research Director
Ms Megan Collins, Research Officer

1 Release of Answers to Pre-Hearing Questions on Notice

On the motion of Mr Rowell, seconded by Mr Welford, it was resolved:

That, pursuant to s. 4(2) of the *Parliamentary Papers Act 1992*, the Committee authorises the publication of all answers received to the Committee's Questions on Notice.

2 Material Received at the Hearing

The Committee agreed, following discussion, that material forwarded to the Committee by witnesses at the public Hearing would be tabled with the Committee's Report as Additional Information rather than be incorporated into Hansard, unless the material was of especial importance.

3 Witnesses Attending

The Committee noted that the Research Director had been advised that all requested public officials would be attending the Hearing except for some public officials who could not attend for good reason and, in that case, alternates had been arranged.

4 Arrangements for Public Hearing

The Committee discussed arrangements for the public Hearing to be held that day.

5 Schedule for the Consideration of the Report

The Committee discussed a timetable for the consideration and production of its Report.

On the motion of Mr Mackenroth, seconded by Mr Mitchell, the Committee resolved:

That the Chairman's Draft Report be forwarded to Members on the day prior to the 1 October Meeting which had been proposed for the consideration of the Report, unless otherwise ordered.

Mr Welford advised that he would be interstate and not available for the 1 October 1996 meeting and indicated his availability for a Draft to be forwarded to him. Following perusal of the Draft, he would contact the Committee with any suggested amendments.

On the motion of Hon Mackenroth, seconded by Mr Mitchell, the Committee resolved:

That any subject areas or matters which a Member wished the Chairman to consider in her preparation of the Draft Report be forwarded to the Chairman or the Research Director by 5.00 pm Wednesday, 25 September 1996.

6 Next Meeting

The Committee agreed that it would next meet on that date following the close of the public session.

7 Adjournment

There being no further business, the Committee adjourned at 8.52 am.

Confirmed this first day of October 1996.

[Original Signed]

Chairman

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE D

Minutes of Hearings of Estimates Committee D held on 20 September 1996 at 9.00am in the Legislative Council Chamber Parliament House, Brisbane

1. MEETING

The Committee met in public session at 9.00 am.

The following Members of the Committee were present:

Ms Lyn Warwick MLA (Chairman)
Mr Rod Welford MLA (Deputy Chairman)
Ms Lorraine Bird MLA
Hon Terry Mackenroth MLA
Mr Robert Mitchell MLA
Mr Marc Rowell MLA

The Chairman, Ms Lyn Warwick MLA, assumed 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 allocated to it in the Sessional Orders dated 3 September 1996.

3. EXAMINATION OF ESTIMATES

Department of Environment

In attendance was the Honourable B G Littleproud, Minister for Environment, accompanied by the following officers:

Mr T Tolhurst	Acting Director-General
Mr D Boyland	Acting Executive Director, Division of Conservation
Mr C Patearson	Director, Coastal Management Branch
Mr G Wellard	Director, Cultural Heritage Branch
Mr R Arnott	Director, Corporate Services Division

Dr I Wilson	Acting Executive Director, Division of Environment
Mr D Miles	Director, Waste Management Branch
Mr T Dacey	Acting Executive Director, Wet Tropics Management Authority

The Committee examined the Witnesses.

Suspension of Sitting

The sitting was suspended at 10.47 am.

Resumption of Sitting

The Committee resumed at 11.05 am.

The Committee continued its examination of the witnesses.

The Committee concluded its examination and the Witnesses withdrew.

Department of Local Government and Planning

In attendance was the Honourable D E McCauley, Minister for Local Government and Planning, accompanied by the following officers:

Mr K Yearbury	Acting Director-General
Ms L Apelt	Acting General Manager, Corporate Services
Mr D Peddie	Acting Manager, Finance
Mr M Tucker	General Manager, Local Government Services
Mr T Haupt	Acting General Manager, Planning Services
Mr I Schmidt	Manager, SEQ 2001 Regional Resource Unit
Mr R Barker	Manager, Planning Information and Forecasting Division
Mr S Biggs	Acting General Manager, Office of Rural Communities

The Committee examined the Witnesses.

Suspension of Sitting

The Hearing was suspended at 1.00 pm.

Resumption of Sitting

The Committee resumed at 2.30 pm.

The Committee continued its examination of the witnesses.

The Committee concluded its examination and the Witnesses withdrew.

Suspension of Sitting

The Hearing was suspended at 4.00 pm.

Resumption of Sitting

The Committee resumed at 4.16 pm.

Department of Tourism, Small Business and Industry

In attendance was the Honourable B W Davidson, Minister for Tourism, Small Business and Industry, accompanied by the following officers:

Mr L Harris	Director-General
Mr R Boyle	Chief Executive Officer, Office of Business and Industry
Mr G Cooke	Executive Director, Industry and Technology
Mr M Bermingham	Executive Manager, Corporate Development and Finance
Mr R Pulsford	Manager, Finance
Mr M Peters	Executive Director, Office of Tourism
Mr L Longland	Executive Director, Liquor Licensing
Mr D Williams	Acting Chief Executive Officer, Queensland Events Corporation
Mr S Gregg	Chief Executive Officer, Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation
Mr D Ronai	Director of Finance and Administration, Queensland Tourist and Travel Corporation

The Committee examined the Witnesses.

Mr Peter Beattie MLA, by leave, also asked questions.

Suspension of Sitting

The Hearing suspended at 5.42 pm.

Resumption of Sitting

The Committee resumed at 6.00 pm.

The Committee continued its examination of the witnesses.

The Committee concluded its examination and the witnesses withdrew.

4. ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 7.30pm.

Confirmed this first day of October 1996.

[Original Signed]

Chairman

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS ESTIMATES COMMITTEE D

**Minutes of Meeting held on 20 September 1996
at 7.32 pm in the Legislative Council Chamber
Parliament House, Brisbane**

Present: Ms Lyn Warwick MLA (Chairman)
Mr Rod Welford MLA (Deputy Chairman)
Ms Lorraine Bird MLA
Mr Robert Mitchell MLA
Mr Marc Rowell MLA

Apologies: Hon Terry Mackenroth

In attendance: Mr David Thannhauser, Research Director
Ms Megan Collins, Research Officer

1 Resolution Regarding Release of Documents

On the motion of Mr Welford, seconded by Mr Mitchell, the Committee resolved:

That, pursuant to s.4(2) of the *Parliamentary Papers Act 1992*, the Committee authorises the publication of all documents presented to it in the course of its hearings and authorises the publication of written replies and other documents which have been forwarded to it.

2 Next Meeting

The Committee agreed that it would next meet on Tuesday 1 October 1996 at 10.30 am in Room 15.11 of the Parliamentary Annexe.

3 Adjournment

There being no further business, the Committee adjourned at 7.35pm.

Confirmed this first day of October 1996.

[Original Signed]

Chairman

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS ESTIMATES COMMITTEE D

**Minutes of Meeting held on 1 October 1996
at 11.20 am in Room 15.11
Parliamentary Annexe, Brisbane**

- Present:** Ms Lyn Warwick MLA (Chairman)
Ms Lorraine Bird MLA
Mr Robert Mitchell MLA
The Hon Terry Mackenroth MLA
Mr Marc Rowell MLA
- Apologies:** Mr Rod Welford MLA (Deputy Chairman)]
- In attendance:** Mr David Thannhauser, Research
Ms Megan Collins, Research Officer

1 Confirmation of Minutes

On the motion of Mr Mitchell, seconded by Mr Rowell, it was resolved that the Minutes of the Meetings held on 13 September 1996 at 1.05pm, 20 September 1996 at 8.37am and 7.32pm, and the minutes of proceedings held on 20 September 1996 at 9.00am be confirmed.

2 Release of Answers to Questions Taken on Notice

On the motion of Hon. Mackenroth, seconded by Mr Mitchell, it was resolved:

That, pursuant to s.4(2) of the *Parliamentary Papers Act 1992*, the Committee authorise the publication of all written replies and other documents forwarded to it.

3 Tabling of Chairman's Draft Report

The Chairman tabled her Draft Report, copies of which had been circulated to Members.

Discussion ensued regarding amendments to the Draft Report.

The Research Director informed the Committee that the Deputy Chairman, who was out of the State, had contacted the Research Director and informed him of suggested amendments to the Draft Report.

The Committee discussed the amendments suggested by the Deputy Chairman.

4 Next Meeting

The Committee agreed that it would next meet on that day at 3.00 pm in Room 15.11 of the Parliamentary Annexe.

5 Adjournment

There being no further business, the Committee adjourned at 12.01 pm.

Confirmed this first day of October 1996.

[Original Signed]

Chairman

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE D

**Minutes of Meeting held on 1 October 1996
at 3.05 pm in Room 15.11
Parliamentary Annexe, Brisbane**

- Present:** Ms Lyn Warwick MLA (Chairman)
Ms Lorraine Bird MLA
Mr Robert Mitchell MLA
Hon Terry Mackenroth MLA
Mr Marc Rowell MLA
- Apologies:** Mr Rod Welford MLA (Deputy Chairman)
- In attendance:** Mr David Thannhauser, Research Director
Ms Megan Collins, Research Officer

1 Confirmation of Minutes of the Previous Meeting

On the motion of Mr Mitchell, seconded by Ms Bird, the Minutes of the Meeting held earlier that day at 11.20am were confirmed.

2 Consideration of Chairman's Draft Report

The Committee proceeded to the consideration of the Chairman's Draft Report in relation to estimates of expenditure referred to the Committee pursuant to Sessional Orders dated 3 September 1996.

On the motion of Mr Rowell, seconded by Hon Mackenroth, it was resolved:

That, in relation to the Department of Environment, Department of Local Government and Planning and Department of Tourism, Small Business and Industry, the proposed expenditures be agreed to and that the Chairman's Draft Report, as amended, be adopted as the report of the Committee and be tabled by the Chairman on 8 October 1996 together with the Additional Information.

3 Printing of the Report

The Research Director informed the Committee that arrangements had been made for the printing of the Report. Members indicated that no independent additions to the Report would be forthcoming.

4 Adjournment

There being no further business, the Committee adjourned at 3.15 pm.

Certified correct this first day of October 1996.

[Original Signed]

Chairman