



# ESTIMATES COMMITTEE D

## REPORT 1 OF 1999

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Estimates Committee D was appointed on 27 August 1999 to examine and report on the proposed expenditure set out in the *Appropriation Bill 1999* for the organisational units within the portfolios of:

- The Minister for Communication and Information and Minister for Local Government, Planning, Regional and Rural Communities;
- The Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing; and
- The Minister for Environment and Heritage and Minister for Natural Resources

The committee considered the estimates by examining the budget papers and Ministerial Portfolio Statements, answers to pre-hearing questions on notice, evidence taken at a public hearing on Friday, 8 October 1999 and answers to questions taken on notice at the hearing.

During the inquiry the committee examined a wide range of issues, which are listed in this report. For details on these issues the committee directs readers to:

- the volume of 'additional information' (tabled in the House) that contains the committee's questions on notice, the Ministers' answers, and minutes of the committee's meetings; and
- The transcript of the committee's public hearing, which is available on the Hansard web-page at: <http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au:81/handsard.htm>

### 2. DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PLANNING

The Department of Communication and Information, Local Government and Planning:

- Manages the legislative framework for building work
- Develops infrastructure, services and facilities to allow people to participate in the information age
- Helps maintains a responsive and effective local government system
- Assists Government to provide services and products that address the needs of regional communities
- manages a regional and urban planning and development system
- coordinates the delivery of information and services to people in rural and remote areas.

### 2.1 Departmental Financial Summary

	1998/99 Budget \$'000	1998/99 Actual \$'000	1999/00 Estimate \$'000
<b>CONTROLLED</b>			
<b>Revenue</b>			
<i>Payments for Outputs</i>	294,330	225,234	305,573
<i>Own Source Revenue</i>	502	16,261	711
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>294,832</b>	<b>241,495</b>	<b>306,284</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>295,410</b>	<b>146,797</b>	<b>304,352</b>
<b>Operating result</b>	<b>(578)</b>	<b>94,698</b>	<b>1,932</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	(2,494)	(2,921)	4,874
<b>ADMINISTERED</b>			
<b>Revenue</b>			
<i>Revenue from Gov't</i>	229,509	229,161	239,621
<i>Other Admin. Revenue</i>	229,167	228,954	240,643
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>458,676</b>	<b>458,115</b>	<b>480,264</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
<i>Payments to Gov't</i>	229,167	228,953	240,643
<i>Administered expenses</i>	229,509	227,588	239,621
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>458,676</b>	<b>456,541</b>	<b>480,264</b>

#### Notes:

- 1998/99 Actual figures are unaudited
- The 1998/99 budget has been recast in accrual output format. A reconciliation of the 1998-99 accrual output budget to the original 1998-99 cash budget is at Appendix A of the MPS.

### 2.2 Capital Works

Departmental capital outlays for 1999/00 are estimated to total \$187.545 million. This includes expenditure for the development of the Information Technology and Telecommunications infrastructure platform and grants and subsidies to local government bodies for infrastructure such as roads (\$67.894 million), water (\$29,127 million), and sewerage (\$25.135 million).

### 2.3 Other Matters

During the course of its inquiry the committee examined are range of issues including:

- Programs, grants and subsidies, and advisory services funded in 1998/99 budget but not included in the 1999/00 budget.
- Funds returned to Treasury
- Funds carried over from the 1998/99 financial year

- Contracts, consultancies and funding agreements entered into that were not completed in 1998/99
- Regional Community Conferences and Ministerial Regional Community Forums
- Establishment and recurrent costs of regional offices
- Funding for the six percent return on assets
- Subsidies for Security in Public Places, Landfill Remediation Assistance Package, Rural Living Infrastructure Program, Advanced Wastewater Treatment Technologies Program, Water Supply Sources and Water and Sewerage Treatment, Smaller Communities Assistance Program, and Showground facilities.
- Regional Centres Community nets
- Visionstream
- Telecommunications expenditure
- The Year 2000 bug
- Electronic service delivery projects
- The Government services locator mechanism
- The standard receipting system
- The Distributed Systems Technology centre
- The Multimedia Applications Development Fund
- The use by AAPT of Queensland Rail's excess fibre optic cable
- The dividend payment methodology for CITEC
- The Kuranda infrastructure levy and the Kuranda Skyrail levy
- The State Communications Information Strategic Plan
- The Collaborative Health Informatics Centre
- Information usage by regional communities
- Delivery of improved telecommunications services
- The Upgrade of Suncorp-Metway Stadium
- The Small Communities Assistance program (SCAP)
- Four year terms for local government
- Local government boundary reviews
- Water and sewerage infrastructure
- License fees for sewerage treatment works
- The GST and the *Diesel and Alternative Fuel Grants Act* (C'wlth)
- Funding to local governments for the administration of nuisance regulations
- The Queensland Government Agent Program (QGAP)
- The coordination of state policies impacting on local government
- The Southern Bay Islands Planning Study
- Standard sewerage law and standard water supply law
- The regional centres program
- The Security improvement program
- The National Competition Policy Incentives Package

### 3. TOURISM, SPORT AND RACING

The Department of Tourism, Sport and Racing plays a leading role in enhancing the economic and social value of Queensland's leisure industries – racing, liquor, sport, recreation and tourism.

In addition to the Department, the Minister is responsible for Tourism Queensland, which deals with tourism destination development and marketing, and the Queensland Events Corporation, which secures and supports major events.

#### 3.1 Department of Tourism, Sport and Racing - Financial Summary

	1998/99 Budget \$'000	1998/99 Actual \$'000	1999/00 Estimate \$'000
<b>CONTROLLED</b>			
<b>Revenue</b>			
<i>Payments for Outputs</i>	68,039	126,561	84,414
<i>Own Source Revenue</i>	29,417	33,148	8,593
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>97,456</b>	<b>159,709</b>	<b>93,007</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>125,660</b>	<b>107,656</b>	<b>140,885</b>
<b>Operating result</b>	<b>(28,204)</b>	<b>52,053</b>	<b>(47,878)</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	11,539	101,175	69,772
<b>ADMINISTERED</b>			
<b>Revenue</b>			
<i>Revenue from Gov't</i>	62,797	62,975	68,770
<i>Other Admin. Revenue</i>	3,306	4,091	3,638
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>66,103</b>	<b>67,066</b>	<b>72,408</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
<i>Payments to Gov't</i>	3,306	5,166	3,638
<i>Administered expenses</i>	63,012	62,962	68,770
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>66,318</b>	<b>68,128</b>	<b>72,408</b>

#### Notes:

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#### 3.2 Capital Works

In 1999/2000 the estimated capital expenditure by the Department of Tourism, Sport and Racing is \$50.682 million. The Department will provide a number of capital grants, notably: \$16.1 million for the National Standard Sports Facilities program, \$14 million for the Community Sport and Recreation Facilities Program, and \$7.6 million for stadia projects.

Capital expenditure by other bodies in this portfolio includes \$878,000 by Tourism Queensland, \$300,000 by 2001 Goodwill Games Brisbane Ltd, \$265,000 by the Lang Park Trust, and \$38.21 million by the Brisbane Cricket Ground Trust.

#### 3.3 Other Matters

During the course of its inquiry the committee examined a range of issues including:

- Grants allocated by Tourism Queensland and the Department of Tourism, Sport and Racing in 1998/99
- The marketing function in the Department of Tourism Sport and Racing
- Outdoor recreation centres

- The implementation of the Government's Crime Prevention Strategy through the provision of sport and recreation facilities in targeted communities
- Grants and subsidies in 1999/2000 as a result of the increase in cash held compared to budget.
- The Co-operative Research Centre for Sustainable Tourism.
- The Farrier Training Course
- Additional TABQ recoupements as part of the funding for purchasing Deagon Racecourse.
- Additional officers employed as a result of purchasing Deagon racecourse
- The new liquor licensing database
- Implementation of the national competition policy review of *The Liquor Act* and *The Wine Industry Act*
- Staff numbers at Tourism Queensland
- Promotion of socially responsible and safe liquor industry practices
- The Liquor Licensing Division and the millennium New Years Eve celebrations
- Strategic priorities for Tourism Queensland
- The effect of the GST on the tourism industry
- Development of a cruising demand study for Queensland Waters
- The Olympic 2000 Task and the Olympic 2000 Business opportunities Project
- The Olympic football tournament
- The Queensland 500 motor race
- Events secured by the Queensland Events Corporation
- Securing national teams for pre Olympic games training in Queensland
- The Goodwill Games
- The Racing Development Fund
- The Sport and Recreation Benefit Fund
- The 1999 Honda Indy
- The upgrade of the Townsville Academy of Sport
- Queensland Academy of Sport talent identification programs
- Initiatives to attract black-type feature races to Queensland
- Tourism from China

#### 4. EPA & DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

##### 4.1 The Environmental Protection Agency

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), including the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS), was established in December 1998 from the Department of Environment and Land Management. The EPA is responsible for sustainable environmental development and the implementation of best practice environmental management and the management and promotion of wildlife and protected areas of Queensland.

##### 4.2 EPA - Financial Summary

	1998/99 Budget \$'000	1998/99 Actual \$'000	1999/00 Estimate \$'000
<b>CONTROLLED</b>			
<b>Revenue</b>			
<i>Payments for Outputs</i>	142,849	128,836	176,181
<i>Own Source Revenue</i>	22,699	43,121	22,631
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>165,548</b>	<b>171,957</b>	<b>198,812</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>166,241</b>	<b>168,636</b>	<b>198,812</b>
<b>Operating result</b>	<b>(693)</b>	<b>3,321</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	696,331	705,031	728,877
<b>ADMINISTERED</b>			
<b>Revenue</b>			
<i>Revenue from Gov't</i>	..	..	..
<i>Other Admin. Revenue</i>	15,758	12,014	11,851
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>15,758</b>	<b>12,014</b>	<b>11,851</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
<i>Payments to Gov't</i>	15,740	13,012	11,851
<i>Administered expenses</i>	..	..	..
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>15,740</b>	<b>13,012</b>	<b>11,851</b>

##### Notes:

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##### 4.3 Department of Natural Resources - Financial Summary

	1998/99 Budget \$'000	1998/99 Actual \$'000	1999/00 Estimate \$'000
<b>CONTROLLED</b>			
<b>Revenue</b>			
<i>Payments for Outputs</i>	326,091	303,157	320,816
<i>Own Source Revenue</i>	90,045	78,988	100,453
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>416,136</b>	<b>382,145</b>	<b>421,269</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>436,222</b>	<b>397,586</b>	<b>421,269</b>
<b>Operating result</b>	<b>(20,086)</b>	<b>(15,441)</b>	<b>..</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	454,378	435,058	492,900
<b>ADMINISTERED</b>			
<b>Revenue</b>			
<i>Revenue from Gov't</i>	..	..	..
<i>Other Admin. Revenue</i>	125,102	119,075	122,972
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>125,102</b>	<b>119,075</b>	<b>122,972</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
<i>Payments to Gov't</i>	121,602	117,826	121,472
<i>Administered expenses</i>	1,500	1,249	1,500
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>123,102</b>	<b>119,075</b>	<b>122,972</b>

##### Notes:

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##### 4.4 EPA Capital Works

Total projected capital works expenditure by the EPA in 1999/00 is \$17.335 million. Major outlays include: the

Tweed River By-pass (\$4.254 million), capital works on parks (\$3.007 million), acquisition of coastal land (\$2.589 million), and, enhanced protected area management (\$2.207 million) .

#### 4.5 The Department of Natural Resources

The Department of Natural Resources is responsible for the sustainable development and use of Queensland's land, water and native vegetation resources. Key activities include water use efficiency, water reform, regional flood mitigation, catchment management and natural heritage projects, sustainable vegetation management, pest management, and catchment management.

#### 4.6 Natural Resources Capital Works

The total projected capital expenditure in the Natural Resources portfolio is \$161.921 million.

The Department of Natural Resources expenditure in 1999/00 is expected to be \$102.297 million. Some of the major projects include the Awoonga Pipeline Upgrade (\$20 million), Palm Island Dam (\$5.6 million), St George Irrigation Area (\$13 million) Mareebah Dimbulah Irrigation Area (\$3.5 million), and the Burdekin River Irrigation Area (\$2.5 million).

Other major capital works expenditure will be by the Gladstone Area Water Board (\$28.88 million), the Mt Isa Water Board (\$2.422 million), the South-East Queensland Water Board (\$9.179 million) and the Townsville Thuringowa Water Supply Board (\$19.143 million).

#### 4.7 Other Matters

During the course of its inquiry the committee examined a range of issues including:

- Plans to improve water resource development and use
- Staffing within the EPA
- Pest and weed control programs
- Annual valuations for local governments
- Contract staff/
- Contracts, consultancies and funding agreements that had not been completed in the 1998/99 financial year
- Money recouped by Treasury
- Funding for programs, grants, subsidies and advisory services
- Coastal management projects recommended for funding by the Coastcare Assessment Panel
- The Water Allocation and Management Planning (WAMP) and the Vegetation Management processes
- Budget provisions for the implementation of the South-East Queensland Regional Forestry Agreement
- Integrated Catchment Management
- Growth of Queensland's spatial information industry
- The Rural Water Use Efficiency initiative
- The delivery of water services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
- Reduction of unwanted chemicals in rural Queensland

- EPA and QPWS employment programs to assist the government in reducing unemployment
- The involvement of traditional owners in protected area estate management and creation
- Implications of the High Court decision on hunting and fishing for traditional foods by indigenous people
- Pastoral leases on Shelburne Station and Bromley Station
- Land purchased for protected area status
- The Healthy Waterways Plan for the Brisbane River and Moreton Bay
- Plans to reduce air pollution in South East Queensland
- Greenhouse gas emissions
- The Wetlands Strategy
- Moreton Bay Marine Park funding
- Funding and maintenance for national parks
- Environmental regulation of the mining industry
- The NatureSearch program
- Tree clearing restrictions on freehold land
- Regional forums on vegetation protection policies
- The sale price of water to irrigators
- Final approval for state water projects
- The Great Artesian Basin sustainability initiative
- Community access to Government land information
- The use of optical character recognition technology to improve the land titles system
- The Burdekin irrigation scheme
- Piping of waste water from Brisbane, Ipswich and Logan to the Lockyer Valley and the Darling Downs
- Water supply infrastructure on the Barron River
- The Native vegetation management framework
- Construction of the Walla Weir Stage 2, the Jones Weir and the Bucca Weir

### 5. RECOMMENDATION

The committee recommends that the proposed expenditures, as stated in the *Appropriation Bill 1999* for the organisational units within the portfolios referred to Estimates Committee D for examination, be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly without amendment.

Warren Pitt MLA

Chairman 25 October 1999

#### MEMBERSHIP

- Mr Warren Pitt MLA, Chairman
- Hon Vince Lester MLA, Deputy Chairman
- Dr Lesley Clark MLA
- Mr Howard Hobbs MLA
- Mr Graham Healy, MLA
- Mr Phil Reeves, MLA

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