



ESTIMATES COMMITTEE C

REPORT NO. 1 OF 2001

1. INTRODUCTION

The sessional orders adopted by the Legislative Assembly on 30 May 2001 established estimates committees to examine and report on the proposed expenditures stated in the *Appropriation Bill 2001* and the *Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2001*. The orders require Estimates Committee C to examine the proposed expenditure for the portfolios of:

- the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads;
- the Minister for Innovation and Information Economy; and
- the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing.

The committee has considered the estimates for these portfolios by examining the budget papers, ministerial portfolio statements and other information provided by the ministers and their advisors.

This report highlights the proposed expenditures the committee examined and makes a recommendation to the Parliament. A separate volume tabled with the report contains the minutes of the committee's meetings, the committee's questions taken on notice by ministers prior to and during a public hearing on 12 July 2001 and the answers to these questions and supplementary information the ministers provided.

The transcript of the committee's hearing is available on the Hansard web-page at www.parliament.qld.gov.au.

2. TRANSPORT AND MAIN ROADS PORTFOLIO

The Transport and Main Roads Portfolio comprises the Department of Transport (Queensland Transport), the Department of Main Roads and government-owned corporations (GOCs), statutory authorities and other units that report to the minister through these departments.

The total appropriations provided to these departments in the *Appropriations Bill 2001* is \$2.96 billion as follows:

Department	2001-2002 appropriation \$'000
Department of Transport	1,215,843
Department of Main Roads	1,748,056
Total	\$2,963,899

Source: *Schedule 1 Appropriation Summary for 2001-2002, Appropriation Bill 2001.*

2.1 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

Queensland Transport is the lead agency responsible for developing and managing the land, air and sea transport environments in Queensland. Queensland Transport has a *leadership* role in transport policy and planning, a *stewardship* role in managing the use and access to the transport system, and a *service delivery* role in providing coordinated and integrated transport-related services and infrastructure.

The GOCs and statutory authorities that answer to the minister through the department are:

GOCs—

- Queensland Rail
- Ports Corporation of Queensland
- Port of Brisbane Corporation
- Bundaberg Port Authority
- Cairns Port Authority
- Gladstone Port Authority
- Mackay Port Authority
- Rockhampton Port Authority
- Townsville Port Authority.

Statutory Authorities—

- Gold Coast Harbours Authority
- Marine Board.

The department's projected outputs and costs for 2001-2002 are as follows:

Output	Total Cost \$'000
Rail, Ports and Aviation	394,347
Integrated Transport Planning	67,224
Road Use Management	189,786
Maritime Services	94,092
Public Transport Services	523,402
Total	\$1,268,851

Source: *State Budget 2001-2002 Ministerial Portfolio Statement – Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads p.1-10.*

Issues the committee raised with the minister included:

- programs funded from speed camera revenue;
- funding to implement recommendations of the School Transport Safety Task Force;
- the Townsville South railway yards;
- increased borrowings by port authorities;
- toilet facilities on Sunshine Coast rail services;
- rural and regional railway capital works projects;
- provisions to upgrade rural and regional airstrips;
- the Cairns Tilt Train project;
- safety and security initiatives on the Citytrain rail network;
- Citytrain patronage;
- the School Transport Assistance Scheme;
- funding of additional school crossing supervisors;
- the South East Transit Project;
- proceeds from the sale of personalised number plates;
- the Urangan Boat harbour;
- response times for callers to Queensland Transport call centres;
- the Inner Northern Busway; and
- the Petrie to Kippa Ring rail link.

2.2 DEPARTMENT OF MAIN ROADS

The Queensland Department of Main Roads manages the State-controlled road network on behalf of the State Government. Queensland's 34,000 kilometres of State-controlled road network represents 20 percent of Queensland's road network and carries 80 percent of the state's traffic. The department also owns Queensland Motorway Limited.

The department's projected outputs and costs for 2001-2002 are as follows:

Output	Total Cost \$'000
Road Network Planning and Management	1,838,706
Road Asset Maintenance	239,062
Road Network Operation and Use	15,421
Total	\$2,093,189

Source: *State Budget 2001-2002 Ministerial Portfolio Statements – Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads p.2-7.*

Issues the committee raised with the minister included:

- capital outlays compared to allocations in the 2000-01 to 2004-05 Roads Implementation Program;
- provisions in the budget for the erection of sound barriers on the Pacific Motorway;
- the 10 percent increase in the debt to equity ratio for commercial operations;
- comparative 2001-02 and 2000-01 road funding;

- impact on the Commonwealth *Roads to Recovery* program on State road funding;
- roads expenditure in 2001-02 outside south east Queensland;
- the Nundah Bypass project;
- delivery of the Roads Implementation Project in regional areas during 2000-01;
- the Federal Government's Blackspot Funding Program;
- the Tugun Bypass project;
- the Port of Brisbane Motorway; and
- the Outback Highway (Reef to Rock) concept.

3. INNOVATION & INFORMATION ECONOMY PORTFOLIO

The Innovation and Information Economy portfolio seeks to identify Queensland's key strengths in innovation and emerging technologies and enable government, industry and the community to take advantage of opportunities in the new knowledge economy¹. It comprises part of the Department of Innovation and Information Economy, Sport and Recreation Queensland (DIIESRQ) and includes CITEC.

CITEC operates as a fully commercial business, and plays a significant role in improving employment opportunities in the information technology and telecommunications industry and in improving access to government information and services throughout Queensland.

3.1 DEPARTMENT OF INNOVATION AND INFORMATION ECONOMY, SPORT AND RECREATION QUEENSLAND

The Government created the Department of Innovation and Information Economy, Sport and Recreation Queensland on 22 February 2001. It comprises: the Government's Information Technology and Telecommunications (IT&T) industry development functions; *Access Queensland*, the Government's integrated service delivery initiative; and policy and strategic coordination functions.

Under the Government's Administrative Arrangements, the department is accountable to both the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Sport and the Minister for Innovation and Information Economy in relation to the administration of their respective portfolios. The Director-General and the Internal Audit and Corporate and Executive Services areas of DIIESRQ support both portfolios.

The total appropriation provided to the department in the *Appropriations Bill 2001* is \$180.39 million. The apportionment of the appropriation across the Innovation and Information Economy (IIE) and Sport and Recreation Queensland (SRQ) areas of the agency is as follows:

¹ *State Budget 2001 – 2002- Innovation and Information Economy – Budget Highlights, Department of Innovation and Information Economy, Sport and Recreation Queensland* <<http://www.dciilgps.qld.gov.au/index>>.

	IIE \$000	SRQ \$000	Total for DIIESRQ \$000
Appropriation \$'000	66,174	114,216	180,390
Controlled \$'000	58,899	97,409	156,308
Administered \$'000	-	10,950	10,950
Equity \$'000	7,275	5,857	13,132

Source: Department of Innovation and Information Economy, Sport and Recreation Queensland, 2001.

The budget estimates for the portfolio of the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Sport were examined by Estimates Committee A.

The Innovation and Information Economy Portfolio's component of the department's projected outputs and costs for 2001-2002 are as follows:

Output	Total Cost \$'000
Policy, Regulatory & Advisory Services	44,935
Services, Infrastructure and Facilities to Queensland's Regions	22,787
• Innovation and Information Economy	
Total	\$67,722

Source: State Budget 2001-2002 Ministerial Portfolio Statements – Minister for Innovation and Information Economy p.1-6.

Issues the committee raised with the minister included:

- costs to establish the portfolio;
- the cost of consultancies and other out-sourced advice for 2000-01;
- expenditure on promotional, public awareness and advertising in 2000-01;
- initiatives undertaken by the department in 2000-01 and proposed for 2001-02 to assist people in rural and regional areas;
- expenditure by the department to attract new industries to Queensland;
- proposed expenditure in 2001-02 on the Pharmaceutical Centre of Excellence;
- costs to establish the minister's office at 111 George Street and relocate the previous tenants;
- expenditure linked to the \$100 million Smart State Research Fund;
- proposed sites in rural and regional areas for Centres of Excellence in Education under the Smart State Strategy;
- projects assisted through the *Innovation Start-up Scheme*;
- Information Industry Bureau (IIB) services to regional clients;
- benefits from investment in biotechnology;
- proposed implementation of *Biostart*;
- Cooperative Research Centres;
- the development of a spatial database for telecommunications infrastructure;
- Provision of telecommunications infrastructure in rural and regional centres;

- Appointment of the London-based position of Business Development Manager;
- Reef Net;
- Re-development of the Queensland Government web site; and
- Bio-prospecting and bio-diversity.

4. PUBLIC WORKS AND HOUSING PORTFOLIO

The Public Works and Housing Portfolio comprises the Department of Public Works, the Department of Housing and statutory authorities that report to the minister through these departments.

The total appropriations provided to these departments in the *Appropriations Bill 2001* is \$434.138 million as follows:

Department	2001-2002 appropriation \$'000
Department of Public Works	105,011
Department of Housing	329,127
Total	\$434,138

Source: Schedule 1 Appropriation Summary for 2001-2002, Appropriation Bill 2001.

4.1 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

The Department of Public Works aims to assist Queensland Government agencies in identifying and accessing appropriate infrastructure and services to progress Government priorities and assist agencies in the achievement of their goals and objectives.

The department achieves this by: providing leadership in the delivery of the Government's Capital Works Building Program in partnership with industry; undertaking a lead agency role in procurement policy and practices for the whole-of-Government; providing a range of value for money services; providing advice and support to Government agencies to assist them in identifying, procuring and managing their individual infrastructure needs; and providing leadership advice and support to, and development of, the Queensland Building Industry.

The statutory authorities that answer to the minister through the department are:

- Board of Professional Engineers of Queensland
- Board of Architects of Queensland.

The department's projected outputs and costs for 2001-2002 are as follows:

Output	Total Cost \$'000
Building Procurement & Asset Management	280,563
Procurement Services	5,649
Total	\$286,212

Source: State Budget 2001-2002 Ministerial Portfolio Statements – Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing p.1-8.

Issues the committee raised with the minister included:

- expenditure on consultancies and other out-sourced advice during 2000-01;
- expenditure on promotional, public awareness and advertising during 2000-01;
- proposed expenditure connected with the Roma Street Parklands in 2001-02;
- construction of the Cairns Government Office Building;
- implementation of the State Purchasing Policy;
- Q Build's operational management responsibility for the Roma Street Parkland;
- fleet trial of hybrid vehicle technology;
- employment of apprentices, trainees and graduates;
- measures by the Building Services Authority to reduce unlicensed building contracting; and
- the Backflow Prevention project.

4.2 DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING

The Department of Housing plays an important role in providing direct and indirect housing assistance and in influencing the overall housing system within Queensland.

Taking a responsive, integrated and flexible service approach in developing solutions for un-met housing needs, the Department focuses on assisting clients to achieve successful housing outcomes which contribute to individual, family and community sustainability. The Department is committed to working in partnership with other government agencies, industry, community and the private sector to help individuals, particularly the most vulnerable, to find appropriate housing solutions.

The statutory authorities that answer to the minister through the department are:

- Residential Tenancy Authority
- Queensland Building Services Authority.

The department's projected outputs and costs for 2001-2002 are as follows:

Output	Total Cost \$'000
Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Housing	86,927
Community Housing	45,702
Community Renewal	21,088
Home Purchase Assistance	37,147
Private Housing Assistance	26,722
Public Rental Housing	549,559
Total	767,145

Source: State Budget 2001-2002 Ministerial Portfolio Statements – Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing p.2-8.

Issues the committee raised with the minister included:

- costs and timetable to develop the Kelvin Grove Urban Village;

- provisions in the budget to construct crisis and transitional accommodation;
- proposed expenditure under the Community Housing Program;
- initiatives to improve the efficiency of the community housing system;
- the department's Affordable Housing Policy and Strategy;
- public housing upgrade and maintenance funding;
- Commonwealth housing grants received in 2000-01 and expected for 2001-02;
- expenditure incurred by the Director-General;
- funding to assist the Graceville Centre in Nambour;
- provisions to fund crisis accommodation in the electorate of Nicklin;
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander housing;
- Crisis accommodation centres; and
- Community renewal schemes.

5. RECOMMENDATION

The committee recommends that the proposed expenditures for the portfolios of the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads, the Minister for Innovation and Information Economy and the Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly without amendment.

6. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The committee thanks ministers and their staff for their cooperation and assistance.

Linda Lavarch MP
Chair

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- Mrs Linda Lavarch MP, Chair and Member for Kurwongbah
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