



Estimates Committee A

2003

Report No. 1 To The Legislative Assembly

Introduction

1. The sessional orders adopted by the Legislative Assembly on 30 April, 2003 referred the proposed expenditure contained in the *Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2003* for the Legislative Assembly to Estimates Committee A for examination and report.
2. In accordance with sessional order 31(2), the committee is required to report separately on the proposed expenditures for the Legislative Assembly.
3. The committee conducted a public hearing on 15 July 2003 to take oral evidence from the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. A verbatim transcript of the committee's hearing can be accessed on the Internet at:
<http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Hansard/>
4. Prior to the hearing, the committee put 20 questions on notice to the Speaker. Responses to all the questions were received and these, together with minutes of the committee's meetings, are included in a volume of additional information tabled with this report.
5. The committee has considered the estimates referred to it by using information contained in the Budget papers, answers to pre-hearing questions on notice and the oral evidence taken at the hearing.

Overview

6. The Legislative Assembly of Queensland consists of 89 Members who discharge a range of legislative and constituency responsibilities. The Parliamentary Service provides the administrative and support services.

7. The following table sets out details of the appropriation for 2003-04 compared to the previous financial year.

| | 2002-03 \$'000 | 2003-04 \$'000 |
|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Departmental Outputs | 54,786 | 56,203 |
| Equity Adjustment | (113) | 0 |
| Vote Total | 54,673 | 56,203 |

8. The Parliament delivers a single output called *Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service*. The estimated expenditure for 2003-04 is \$57.081M (2002: \$56.655M)¹ and this will be predominantly funded by the output appropriation. An operating surplus of \$0.300M is projected.

Budget Highlights

9. Key elements in the 2003-04 Budget include:
 - refurbishment of conference and media room facilities on Level 5 of the Parliamentary Annex including reconfiguration of the current tiered floor plan to a more functional open style conference layout, replacement of existing furniture and seating and provision of modern audiovisual equipment to address client demands for modern multimedia presentation capability;
 - upgrade to the existing internet connection provided in Members Electorate Offices; and

¹ Estimated actual for 2002-03, *Speaker's Portfolio Statements 2003-04*: 6

- upgrading of the audio system used by Parliamentary Reporting Services to capture audio from the Parliamentary Chamber from an analogue to a digital system.

10. Issues canvassed at the hearing include:

- Internet usage.
- Pest control for Parliament House.
- Stonework restoration along the Alice Street side of Parliament House.
- Functions at Parliament House.
- Items remaining for sale from Regional Parliament.
- Signage within the Parliamentary Precinct.
- Refurbishment of the front entrance and public and disabled access to Parliament House.
- Regional Parliament highlights.

Recommendation

11. The committee recommends that the proposed expenditure, as detailed in the *Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2003*, be agreed to without amendment.

[Original Signed]

Margaret Keech MP
Chair

August 2003

Committee Members

Ms Margaret Keech MP (Chair)
Mr Lawrence Springborg MP (Deputy Chair)
Mr Michael Choi MP
Mr Mike Horan MP
Mr Bob Quinn MP
Ms Barbara Stone MP
Mr Trevor Stong MP

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Ms Deborah Jeffrey (Research Director)
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