



# ESTIMATES COMMITTEE F

## REPORT – 2003

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The sessional orders adopted by the Legislative Assembly on 30 April 2003 established seven estimates committees to consider proposed expenditure under the Appropriation Bill 2003 and the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2003. The Assembly appointed Estimates Committee F to examine and report on the proposed expenditure set out in the Appropriation Bill 2003 for the organisational units within the portfolios of the:

- Minister for Innovation and Information Economy;
- Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing; and
- Minister for Families and Minister for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Disability Services and Minister for Seniors.

The committee conducted a public hearing on Wednesday, 23 July 2003 to take evidence from these ministers and their respective officers. The transcript of the hearing is available on the Internet at: <http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au>.

For the purposes of examining the proposed expenditure for the organisational units allocated to it, the committee considered information obtained at the public hearing in conjunction with:

- budget papers and ministerial portfolio statements;
- ministers' written responses to the committee's questions on notice prior to the public hearing; and
- ministers' written responses to questions taken on notice at the public hearing.

During its inquiry the committee examined a wide range of issues, including those 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 in conjunction with this report, which contains the minutes of the committee's meetings, the committee's pre-hearing questions on notice and the ministers' responses, and the questions taken on notice by ministers during the public hearing and the ministers' responses; and
- the transcript of the committee's public hearing.

### 2. DEPARTMENT OF INNOVATION AND INFORMATION ECONOMY

The Innovation and Information Economy portfolio is administered as part of the Department of Innovation and Information Economy, Sport and Recreation Queensland, and includes CITEC.

Under the government's administrative arrangements, the department is accountable to the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Sport for programs administered by Sport and Recreation Queensland and the Queensland Academy of Sport, and to the Minister for Innovation and Information Economy for Innovation and Information Economy (including the Office of Energy) programs.

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

The department's total appropriation is \$448.826m.

The MPS includes the following outputs for 2003-04:

<b>Output</b>	<b>Total Cost \$'000</b>
Policy and Regulatory Frameworks for the Smart State	17,922
Services, Infrastructure and Facilities to Queensland – Innovation and Information Economy	68,262
Energy	11,037

Source: *State Budget 2003-04, MPS—Minister for Innovation and Information Economy, p.10.*

Note—See MPS for detailed outputs summary.

### **Issues considered by the committee**

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

- energy GOC financial matters, including debt collection
- cross-border leasing
- risk management strategies in the electricity market
- GOC capital works programs
- full retail contestability

- energy market reform
- national electricity energy regulation
- sustainable energy
- Stanwell Power Station works
- Tennyson Power Station land
- supply of energy to the Carpentaria Minerals Province
- Townsville Power Station and Gas Delivery Project
- transmission and demand matters, including energy distribution transmission networks
- Energex service call management system
- community service obligations
- mobile phone coverage in regional areas
- research and development programs
- science and information technology education and career programs and the Saturday Science program
- Gold Coast information and computer technology services
- community awareness of, and attitudes towards, science and biotechnology
- gene technology in agriculture
- science, research and innovation initiatives
- growth of ICT industries, careers for women in ICT, and whole of government ICT contracts
- consultancy services and out-sourced advice
- licensing compliance and auditing matters
- promotional, public awareness and advertising campaigns

- grants and subsidies
- the Smart State Strategy
- Innovation Start-Up Scheme
- BIO 2003 Conference
- Code of Ethical Practice for Biotechnology in Queensland
- Cooperative Research Centre funding program
- security of government computing networks
- Public Records Review Committee
- Queensland State Archives.

### 3. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING

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 those departments.

The total appropriations provided to these departments in the Appropriation Bill 2003 is \$489.735 million, as follows:

Department	\$'000
Department of Public Works	121,049
Department of Housing	368,686
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$489,735</b>

Source: State Budget 2003-04 MPS—Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing, p.1-7 and p.2-9.

#### Department of Public Works

The MPS provides the following output summary for 2003-04:

Output	Total Cost \$'000
Building Procurement and Asset Management	289,138
Procurement Services	5,653
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$294,791</b>

Source: State Budget 2003-04, MPS—Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing, p.1-8.

#### Issues considered by the committee

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

- construction, fit-out and project management of Suncorp Stadium, including partnering arrangements
- management of government sponsored construction contracts, including subcontractor matters and the pre-qualification system
- mobile phone usage
- Boggo Road redevelopment project
- Qfleet environmental initiatives
- training and development of apprentices
- royal commission into the building and construction industry
- thermal comfort mechanisms for government school buildings
- relocation of the La Boite Theatre
- voluntary redundancy and separation payments
- Qfleet vehicles, insurance premiums and 'Think Safe, Drive Safe' program
- Goprint reserve services and production output and staffing matters
- shared service initiative, including Qfleet's role in the initiative
- disposal and development of the Townsville Hospital property
- Roma Street Parkland

- redevelopment of the Rockhampton Showgrounds
- indigenous employment and apprenticeship programs
- lease of Old Government House
- sale and development of Yungaba
- advertising, promotional and public awareness campaigns
- internal audits
- ministerial travel and departmental conferences
- Millennium Arts project
- Government Employee Housing Scheme
- disposal of land
- consultancy services and legal advice and departmental contractual matters.

### Department of Housing

The MPS provides the following output summary for 2003-04:

<b>Output</b>	<b>Total Cost \$'000</b>
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing	94,712
Community Housing	45,755
Community Renewal	24,115
Home Purchase Assistance	15,872
Private Housing Assistance	42,321
Public Rental Housing	555,830
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$778,605</b>

*Source: State Budget 2003-04, MPS—Minister for Public Works and Minister for Housing, p.2-10.*

### Issues considered by the committee

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

- housing programs and infrastructure needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
- crisis and emergency accommodation programs
- Housing Industry Trade Training program
- the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement
- building and sale of public housing, management of the sale and disposal process and disposal of land
- seniors accommodation
- audit of client service outlets
- Residential Tenancies Authority and tenancy databases
- staffing matters, including the shared services initiative, and separation payments
- research into public housing tenancies
- affordable community housing and rental accommodation
- changing demographic profile and housing needs
- land and housing sales
- residential tenancies legislation
- Community Renewal program
- partnerships with other government agencies and external organisations
- advertising, promotional and public awareness campaigns
- internal audits
- consultancy services and legal advice.

#### 4. DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIES, DEPARTMENT OF ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER POLICY AND DISABILITY SERVICES QUEENSLAND

##### Department of Families

The purpose of the Department of Families is to strengthen and protect the well-being of Queenslanders, particularly those who are vulnerable and most in need.

The MPS states (at p.1-1) that while the Department of Families will continue to provide services to children, young people and families experiencing crises, the service focus has changed to greater investment in prevention and early intervention.

The total appropriation for the Department of Families in 2003–04 is \$491.771 million.

The MPS provides the following output summary for 2003-04:

Output	Total Cost \$'000
Prevention Services	67,044
Early Intervention Services	67,727
Immediate Response Services	104,834
Continuing Support Services	160,427
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$400,032</b>

Source: State Budget 2003-04, MPS—Minister for Families and Minister for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Disability Services and Minister for Seniors, 2003-04 Output Summary, p.1-6.

##### Issues considered by the committee

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

- carers recognition policy and assistance to senior carers

- Stephens Island retail store
- staffing matters and consultancy services
- advertising campaigns
- internal audits
- seminars, conferences and workshops and staff training
- foster carer audit process and funding for foster care services
- commercial accommodation facilities for children and young people
- client survey benchmarking
- Queensland Families: Future Directions initiatives, including prevention and early intervention trials and Reconnect Workers
- implementation of Project Axis recommendations
- social isolation and seniors
- strategies to combat domestic violence
- family contact strategies for youth in detention centres; children in care and foster carers support
- Inter-country Adoption Unit initiatives
- Staffing Allocation Model and integrated client management system
- strategic directions and priorities for child protection.

##### Department of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Policy

The corporate vision of the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy is to provide outstanding leadership on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander issues.

The total appropriation for the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy in 2003-04 is \$89.197 million.

The MPS provides the following output summary for 2003-04:

<b>Output</b>	<b>Total Cost \$'000</b>
Strategic Policy (Advice)	12,147
Community Development	58,651
Community Governance	28,857
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$99,655</b>

Source: *State Budget 2003-04, MPS—Minister for Families and Minister for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Disability Services and Minister for Seniors, 2003-04 Output Summary, p.2-8.*

#### **Issues considered by the committee**

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

- staffing matters and consultancy services
- advertising campaigns
- seminars, conferences and workshops
- hotel licensing matters and alcohol management plans
- animal welfare on Palm Island
- reparation payment matters
- Meeting Challenges, Making Changes program
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander economic development and infrastructure projects
- Community Governance Improvement Strategy and financial arrangements for Aboriginal Councils and Islander Boards
- community justice groups
- diversionary centres

- consultation mechanisms
- therapeutic and counselling services
- internal audit programs
- delivery of services and the government champions program
- Indigenous Community Volunteers program.

#### **Disability Services Queensland**

Disability Services Queensland provides a wide range of programs and services for people with a disability, their families, carers and the community.

The total appropriation for Disability Services Queensland in 2003-04 is \$289.938 million.

The MPS provides the following output summary for 2003-04:

<b>Output</b>	<b>Total Cost \$'000</b>
Support for Adults	225,018
Support for Children and Families	131,314
Community and Infrastructure Support	28,553
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$384,885</b>

Source: *State Budget 2003-04, MPS—Minister for Families and Minister for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Policy and Minister for Disability Services and Minister for Seniors, 2003-04 Output Summary, p.3-8.*

#### **Issues considered by the committee**

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

- per capita and growth funding commitments
- Future Directions for Disability Services initiatives

- Resident Support program
- CARE accommodation facilities
- complaints management
- staffing and employment separation matters and consultancy services
- advertising campaigns
- internal audits
- seminars, conferences and workshops
- Disability Information and Awareness Line
- Local Area Coordination program
- Disability Information system
- respite and family support services
- funding of non-government organisations, and quality assurance program
- Commonwealth-State Disability Agreement
- regional disability councils
- accommodation for Basil Stafford Centre residents
- carers recognition policy and legislation and the review of disability services legislation
- ADHD report
- support for people with autism
- Family Support program
- adult lifestyle support packages
- post-school services program.

## 5. RECOMMENDATION

The committee recommends that the proposed expenditures, as stated in the Appropriation Bill 2003, for the organisational units within the portfolios referred to Estimates Committee F for examination, be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly without amendment.

## 6. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The committee thanks the ministers and their departmental officers for their cooperation and assistance throughout the estimates process.

Julie Attwood MP

Chair

August 2003

## MEMBERSHIP

**Mrs Julie Attwood MP**, Member for Mt Ommaney (Chair)

**Hon Kevin Lingard MP**, Member for Beaudesert (Deputy Chair)

**Mr Ray Hopper MP**, Member for Darling Downs

**Mrs Linda Lavarch MP**, Member for Kurwongbah

**Mrs Dianne Reilly MP**, Member for Mudgeeraba

**Mr Steven Rodgers MP**, Member for Burdekin

**Dr David Watson MP**, Member for Moggill

## SECRETARIAT

Ms Meg Hoban, Research Director

Ms Narelle Robinson, Executive Assistant