



Estimates Committee A

2004

Report No. 1 To The Legislative Assembly

Introduction

1. The sessional orders adopted by the Legislative Assembly on 20 May, 2004 referred the proposed expenditure contained in the **Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2004** 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 13 July 2004 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 2004-05 compared to the previous financial year.

	2003-04 \$'000	2004-05 \$'000
Departmental Outputs	56,203	61,586
Equity Adjustment	0	(3,365)
Vote Total	56,203	58,221

8. The Parliament delivers a single output called **Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service**. The estimated expenditure for 2004-05 is \$62,764M (2003: \$61,079M)¹ and this will be predominantly funded by the output appropriation.

Budget Highlights

9. Key elements in the 2004-05 Budget include:
 - Redevelopment of the Parliamentary Annexe loading dock area to provide a more efficient work area for receipt of goods (including unloading and security scanning), storage and dispatch. The redevelopment will also provide for the removal of existing underground fuel tanks to remove the risk of future environmental impact.
 - Redesign of existing internet and intranet websites to better address the information requirements of clients and the wider community.
 - Continuation and refinement of the current pilot programs for electronic petitioning and audio broadcast of Parliamentary sittings via the Internet.

¹ Estimated Actual for 2003-04, *Speaker's Portfolio Statements 2004-05*: 4.

- Upgrade of the existing Parliament House emergency evacuation system to improve emergency response times and provide a central control point for managing evacuation procedures.
- Hosting of the 3rd Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Youth Parliament in April 2005 involving international participants from a number of Commonwealth jurisdictions.
- Upgrade to existing air conditioning systems and infrastructure to ensure long term performance reliability.

Committee Members

Ms Rachel Nolan MP (Chair)
 Mr Lawrence Springborg MP (Deputy Chair)
 The Hon Nita Cunningham MP
 Mr Ray Hopper MP
 Ms Carolyn Male MP
 Mr Mark McArdle MP
 Mr Craig Wallace MP

Secretariat

Mr Chris Garvey (Research Director)
 Ms Narelle Robinson (Executive Assistant)

10. Issues canvassed at the hearing included:

- Disappearance of silverware and cutlery from Parliamentary premises
- Number of complaints relating to harassment, bullying and discrimination
- Use of Parliamentary premises for filming
- Electorate office resources
- Official naming of Dandiir and Undumbi Rooms
- E-petition system
- Provision of laptop computers to members.

Recommendation

11. The committee recommends that the proposed expenditure, as detailed in the ***Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2004***, be agreed to without amendment.

Rachel Nolan MP
Chair

August 2004

