



Estimates Committee A

2005

Report No. 1 to the Legislative Assembly

Introduction

1. The Legislative Assembly, by Order made on 11 May 2005, referred the proposed expenditure contained in the *Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2005* to Estimates Committee A for examination and report. The Bill provides for appropriation funding for the outputs and equity adjustment of the Legislative Assembly and the Parliamentary Service. In accordance with Standing Order 186(2), the committee is required to report on the Bill.
2. The committee conducted a public hearing on 5 July 2005 to take oral evidence from the acting 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/>.
3. Prior to the hearing, the committee put 20 questions on notice to the Speaker. Responses to all questions were received and these, together with minutes of the committee's meetings, are included in the additional information tabled with this report.
4. The committee has considered the estimates referred to it by using information contained in:
 - the Budget papers
 - answers to pre-hearing questions on notice
 - oral evidence taken at the hearing
 - answers to questions taken on notice at the hearing
 - additional information given in relation to answers.

Overview

5. The Legislative Assembly of Queensland consists of 89 Members who discharge a range of legislative and constituency responsibilities. The Parliamentary Service provides administrative and support services to the Assembly.
6. The following table sets out details of the appropriation for 2005-06 compared to the previous financial year.

	2004-05 \$'000	2005-06 \$'000
Departmental Outputs	61,586	59,395
Equity Adjustment	(3,365)	(3,365)
Vote Total	58,221	56,030

7. The Parliament delivers the output *Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service*. Estimated expenditure for 2005-06 is \$60.573M (2004-05: \$58.623M)¹ and this will be predominantly funded by the output appropriation.

Budget Highlights

8. Key elements in the 2005-06 Budget include:
 - improving the style, production processes and integration of Hansard, votes and proceedings, the notice paper and the daily program
 - investigating opportunities to streamline the process for casting and collating votes in the chamber
 - replacing the audio/visual television distribution system throughout the Parliamentary precinct

¹ *Speaker's Portfolio Statement 2005-06*, Income Statement, 13.

- replacing computer equipment in Members' electorate offices
 - hosting a regional sitting of Parliament in Rockhampton
 - implementing a tailored training and development program for electorate office staff
 - continuing the replacement program for air-conditioning plant throughout the Parliamentary precinct
 - continuing the Parliament House stonework restoration program.
9. Issues canvassed at the hearing included:
- Speaker's expenses and entitlements
 - training program for electorate officers
 - emergency evacuation system for the Parliamentary complex
 - access to the parliamentary library electronic information resources
 - measures to ensure the safety of visitors to the Parliament
 - planning for the regional sitting in Rockhampton.

Recommendation

10. The committee recommends that the proposed expenditure, as detailed in the *Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2005*, be agreed to without amendment.

Phil Reeves MP
Chair
July 2005

Committee Members

Mr Phil Reeves MP (Chair)
Mr Lawrence Springborg MP (Deputy Chair)
Mr Andrew Fraser MP
Mr Ray Hopper MP
Ms Carolyn Male MP
Ms Rachel Nolan MP
Mr Bob QuinnMP