



Estimates Committee A

2005

Report No. 2 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* and certain proposed expenditures contained in the *Appropriation Bill 2005* to Estimates Committee A for examination and report. The Order of Appointment allocated the following organisational units and ministerial portfolios to the committee:

Office of the Governor

Legislative Assembly

Queensland Audit Office

Ombudsman

Crime and Misconduct Commission

Commissioner for Children and Young People

Public Service Commissioner

Premier and Minister for Trade

Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Sport

Minister for Public Works, Housing and Racing.

2. The *Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2005* 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 will report separately on this Bill.
3. A public hearing was held on 5 July 2005 to take oral evidence from the Premier and Minister for Trade, the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Sport and the Minister for Public Works, Housing and Racing. 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 public hearing, the committee put 20 questions on notice to each minister. Responses to all questions were received.
5. The committee has considered the estimates referred to it by examining information contained in:
 - the Budget papers
 - answers to pre-hearing questions on notice
 - oral evidence taken at the hearing
 - documents tabled at the hearing
 - answers to questions taken on notice at the hearing
 - additional information given in relation to answers.
6. Answers to questions on notice and questions taken on notice at the hearing, together with minutes of the committee's meetings, are included in the additional information tabled with this report.

Premier and Minister for Trade

Office of the Governor

7. The Office of the Governor provides personal, administrative and logistic support to the Governor and manages the Government House Estate. 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	3,594	3,676
Equity Adjustment	(114)	(114)
Vote Total	3,480	3,562

8. Key elements in the 2005-06 Budget include:

- Developing contemporary governance arrangements
- \$0.04M for upgrading vehicles, office machines and safety appliances.

Queensland Audit Office

9. The Queensland Audit Office (QAO) is an independent statutory office established to assist the Auditor-General audit the public accounts and some 818 public sector entities. The Auditor-General may also conduct discretionary performance management systems audits.

10. 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	4,210	4,315
Equity Adjustment	(92)	250
Vote Total	4,118	4,565

11. The office delivers the output, *Independent Public Sector Auditing Services and Reporting*. Estimated expenditure for 2005-06 is \$25.732M (2005: \$25.079M)¹ and this will be funded by audit fee revenue of \$21.340M and the output appropriation of \$4.315M.

12. Key elements in the Budget include:

- addressing the recommendations of the strategic review
- completing development of an audit methodology toolset to replace the current software
- undertaking a range of performance management system audits.

Office of the Ombudsman

13. The office is responsible for investigating and redressing administrative illegality, unfairness or error in the public sector, including local government, where no other specific remedy exists. The office also assists agencies to improve their practices and procedures.

14. 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	6,034	5,017
Equity Adjustment	(120)	(122)
Vote Total	5,914	4,895

15. The office delivers the output *Independent Review of Complaints and Appeals about Government Administration*. Estimated expenditure for 2005-06 is \$5.103M (2005: \$5.676M)² and this will be funded primarily by output appropriation.

16. Key priorities in the Budget include:

- undertaking phase 2 of the complaints management project
- delivering *Good Decisions Training*
- raising awareness of the Ombudsman's role and functions in regional areas and promoting access to the Ombudsman's services for culturally diverse communities
- finalising the redevelopment of the office's website
- assisting the Department of Local Government, Planning, Sport and Recreation in developing generic complaints procedures for local governments and a framework for local government decision-making on enforcement of regulatory arrangements.

Crime and Misconduct Commission

17. The Crime and Misconduct Commission (CMC) is an independent body that focuses on fighting and preventing major crime, reducing serious misconduct and promoting high standards of integrity in the public sector and protecting witnesses.

18. The CMC is a non-departmental output of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. The major income source is grant funding administered by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet.

¹ Premier and Minister for Trade, Ministerial Portfolio Statement 2005-06, QAO Income Statement, 9-10.

² Premier and Minister for Trade, Ministerial Portfolio Statement 2005-06, Office of the Ombudsman Income Statement, 7-11.

19. Estimated expenditure in 2005-06 compared to the previous year is detailed in the following table:³

Non departmental output	2004-05 Est.Actual \$'000	2005-06 Estimate \$'000
Combating Major Crime Including Organised Crime and Paedophilia	10,431	10,774
Reducing Misconduct and Improving Public Sector Integrity	18,984	19,607
Protecting Witnesses	4,056	4,189
Total	33,471	34,570

20. Key priorities in the Budget include:

- completing major research projects into crime prevention issues including an evaluation of the Government's volatile substance misuse safe places strategy
- collaborating with a university and integrity organisations to contribute to the Australian Research Council project *Whistling While They Work*
- maintaining lead agency status in witness protection training under the Advanced Diploma of Public Safety (Police Witness Protection).

Commissioner for Children and Young People and Child Guardian

21. The Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian promotes and protects the rights, interests and wellbeing of children and young people in Queensland. The three key functions of the commission are the Child Guardian; employment screening; and policy, research and communication.
22. The commission is a non-departmental output of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. Its major income source is grant funding administered by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet.
23. Estimated expenditure in 2005-06 compared to the previous year is detailed in the following table.⁴

Non departmental output	2004-05 Est.Actual \$'000	2005-06 Estimate \$'000
Promotion and protection of the rights, interests and wellbeing of children and young people in Queensland	21,928	22,281

24. Key priorities in the Budget include:

- publishing an annual report on the child death review function
- enhancing the employment screening system
- communicating new blue card employment screening provisions to the community and service providers.

Office of the Public Service Commissioner

25. The Office of the Public Service Commissioner (OPSC) operates as the Office of the Public Service Merit and Equity and carries out legislative and regulatory functions with respect to the administration, management and employment of Queensland public service employees.
26. 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	4,657	4,760
Equity Adjustment	0	0
Vote Total	4,657	4,760

27. The office delivers the output, *Administration of the Public service and the Management and Employment of Public Service Employees* and includes services from the Office of the Integrity Commissioner.
28. Estimated expenditure for 2005-06 is \$4.760M (2004: \$5.051M)⁵ and this will be fully funded by output appropriation.

³ Premier and Minister for Trade, Ministerial Portfolio Statement 2005-06, CMC Non-departmental Output Statements, 3-4, 3-7, 3-10.

⁴ Premier and Minister for Trade, Ministerial Portfolio Statement 2005-06, Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian Non-departmental Output Statement, 2-7.

⁵ Premier and Minister for Trade, Ministerial Portfolio Statement 2005-06, Office of the Public Service Commissioner Income Statement, 8-11.

29. Key priorities in the Budget include:

- developing an interactive employment equity website
- developing a database to assist with the management of senior contract employees
- revising the deployment and redeployment directive
- developing options for managing the changing workforce demographic.

Department of the Premier and Cabinet

30. The department supports and advises the Premier and has lead agency and whole-of-Government coordination responsibility for constitutional matters, intergovernmental relations and policy advice on economic, trade, environmental and social impact matters.

31. 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	101,788	108,205
Equity Adjustment	548	(407)
Administered Items	106,134	109,904
Vote Total	208,470	217,702

32. Estimated expenditure for departmental outputs in 2005-06 compared to the previous year is detailed in the following table.⁶

Departmental Output	2004-05 Est.Actual \$'000	2005-06 Estimate \$'000
Policy Advice, Co-Ordination and Cabinet Support	22,996	21,579
International Trade Development	29,570	28,137
Government and Executive Services	53,525	56,133
Legislative Drafting, Advisory and Information Services	7,015	6,927
Total	113,106	112,776

33. Key priorities in the budget include:

- identifying alternatives for community groups affected by the transfer of land to Queensland's national parks under the South East Queensland Forests Agreement
- drafting the cross-border investigative powers legislation
- negotiating a bilateral agreement with the Commonwealth Government on engagement on service delivery with Indigenous communities
- pursuing export opportunities from the Free Trade Agreements with Thailand, Singapore and USA
- assisting with the rehabilitation and rebuilding in tsunami affected countries
- implementing the *Festival of Ideas* to be held in Brisbane
- facilitating the Government's involvement in the Australia-Japan 2006 Year of Exchange
- facilitating the regional sitting of Parliament in Rockhampton
- collaborating with other Australian Parliamentary Counsel offices in developing software for the drafting and publication of legislation.

34. Issues raised with the Premier at the hearing include:

- CMC review of the financial management guidelines for the Office of the Speaker
- CMC research into the size of the cocaine market
- complaints received by the CMC and the Public Service Commissioner regarding Queensland Health
- police telephone tapping powers
- CMC fight against paedophilia
- Government's commitment to accountability and the Palmer inquiry into the Cornelia Rau matter
- health care of immigration detainees in Queensland

⁶ Premier and Minister for Trade, Ministerial Portfolio Statement 2005-06, Department of the Premier and Cabinet Output Summary, 1-5.

- replacement of the QAO audit methodology toolset
- audit advice and assistance provided to Aboriginal councils and local governments
- performance auditing
- audit of Queensland Health
- audit of government advertising expenses
- QAO performance
- costs associated with the State funeral of Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen
- resources provided to non-government parties and Opposition office expenditure
- potential development of the Southbank boardwalk area
- State's trade performance
- international education and training strategy
- international communication strategy regarding Dr Jayant Patel
- strategies to attract investment in Queensland
- replacement of the Government aircraft
- reducing unemployment levels and strategies to improve employment rates for the mature aged
- work of the special representative for Vietnam, Hon Tom Burns
- future of the native forests in the western hardwoods region
- benefits of international events to regional Queensland
- blue card employment screening activities
- potential aviation expansion into unmanned aerial vehicles.

Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Sport

Treasury Department

35. The principal role of the department is to provide core financial and economic advice to Government and manage the State's finances including preparation and oversight of the Budget. Treasury also delivers services in public sector superannuation and motor accident and public liability insurance.

36. 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	111,079	116,066
Equity Adjustment	7,241	4,487
Administered Items	1,594,910	1,390,859
Vote Total	1,713,230	1,511,412

37. Estimated expenditure for departmental outputs in 2005-06 compared to the previous year is detailed in the following table.⁷

Departmental Output	2004-05 Est. Actual \$'000	2005-06 Estimate \$'000
Financial and Economic Policy	35,326	34,868
GOC Performance and Governance	3,659	3,548
Economic and Statistical Research	11,664	12,019
Taxation	39,972	42,856
Gambling	32,803	36,040
Superannuation	46,535	46,031
Shared Service Implementation	6,532	6,438
Total	176,491	181,800

38. Key priorities for 2005-06 include:

- maintaining the State's net worth and AAA credit rating
- continuing development of the revenue management system in the Office of State Revenue
- implementing outcomes of the review of State taxes under the Inter-Governmental Agreement on the Reform of Commonwealth-State Financial Relations
- monitoring government owned corporations (GOCs) performance with a focus on the provision and management of essential infrastructure
- promoting the 2006 National Census to maximise Queensland's enumeration

⁷ Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Sport, Ministerial Portfolio Statement 2005-06, Treasury Department Output Summary, 1-8.

- implementing the Government's land tax revenue initiatives
- administering grant and subsidy programs totalling \$885M
- reviewing the Gaming Machine Act 1991
- distributing grants of \$33M from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund
- improving the financial literacy of superannuation fund members through an enhanced website and tailored publications
- continuing support for the development and implementation of business solutions to deliver standardised corporate services.

Sport and Recreation Queensland

39. Sport and Recreation Queensland and the Queensland Academy of Sport report to the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Sport. The relevant departmental output titled *Services, Infrastructure and Facilities to Queensland – Sport and Recreation* is delivered through the Department of Local Government, Planning and Sport and Recreation (DLGPSR).
40. Estimated expenditure for 2005-06 is \$181.762M (2005: \$143.468M)⁸ and is predominantly funded by the DLGPSR appropriation.
41. Budget highlights for 2004-05 include:
- working with the Australian Sports Commission to implement the *Active After School Communities Program* in Queensland
 - evaluating the *Get Active Queensland Children and Young People Strategy*
 - reviewing the *Sports Drug Testing Act 2003* and the *Queensland Government Anti Doping Policy* to ensure they complement international requirements
 - progressing development of an international standard State Tennis Centre at Tennyson
 - preparing Queensland's elite athletes for the 2006 Commonwealth Games.

Office of Urban Management

42. The Office of Urban Management reports to the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Sport and is responsible for managing growth and infrastructure coordination and planning for South East Queensland. The office delivers the departmental output titled *Urban Management for South East Queensland* through the Department of Local Government, Planning, Sport and Recreation (DLGPSR).
43. Estimated expenditure for 2005-06 is \$6.785M (2005: \$7.919M)⁹ and is predominantly funded by the DLGPSR appropriation.
44. Budget highlights for 2005-06 include:
- monitoring implementation of the South East Queensland Infrastructure Plan and Program
 - coordinating the implementation of the South East Queensland Regional Plan (SEQRP)
 - finalising the Mt Lindesay / North Beaudesert planning study and developing a draft Growth Management Framework by April 2006.
45. Issues raised with the Deputy Premier and Treasurer at the hearing include:
- investments of the Queensland BioCapital Fund
 - Queensland Investment Corporation performance
 - State funding for essential social services
 - Queensland's competitive tax system
 - investment in capital and infrastructure projects
 - reduction in CTP premiums
 - Government's economic strategy
 - capital investment in CorpTech
 - service performance standards of CorpTech
 - GST revenue

⁸ Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Sport, Ministerial Portfolio Statement 2005-06, Sport and Recreation Output Income Statement, 3-10.

⁹ Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Sport, Ministerial Portfolio Statement 2005-06, Office of Urban management Output Income Statement, 4-7.

- forecast employment growth
- benefits of AAA credit rating
- policy to fully fund superannuation liabilities
- responsible gambling research grants program
- restructure of QSuper assets trust
- marketing campaign for Census 2006
- payroll tax
- royalty revenue
- accountability framework for GOCs
- local government grant funding
- minor sports facilities grants
- allocation of capital grant to the Major Sports Facilities Authority
- funding for the Gold Coast stadium and stage 6 of the Gabba stadium redevelopment
- consultation process undertaken for the South East Queensland Regional Plan (SEQRP)
- implementing the SEQRP
- South East Queensland Infrastructure Plan and Program
- Tennyson riverside development project
- funding programs administered by Sport and Recreation Queensland.

Minister for Public Works, Housing and Racing

Department of Public Works

46. The department is the lead agency for the Government in a diverse range of areas including design, construction, fit-out and maintenance of government buildings; whole-of-Government information and communication technology; procurement and; fleet, print and office supplies. It also provides a regulatory framework for public sector records management and the State's racing industry.

47. 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	110,165	72,697
Equity adjustment	36,600	107,716
Administered items	14,349	18,023
Vote Total	161,114	198,436

48. Estimated expenditure for departmental outputs in 2005-06 compared to the prior year is detailed in the following table.¹⁰

Departmental Output	2004-05 Est.Actual \$'000	2005-06 Estimate \$'000
Building Procurement and Asset Management	267,289	269,089
Procurement Services	7,095	9,430
e-Government and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Strategies	27,765	27,146
Public Records Management and Advisory Services	6,900	7,618
Racing Industry Services	15,568	5,925
Total	324,617	319,208

49. Key priorities in 2005-06 include:

- expanding storage at the Queensland State Archives Runcorn facility
- redeveloping the Boggo Road Precinct
- progressing refurbishment of the disused former Health and Welfare building at 63 George Street and integrating it with the adjoining David Longland Building
- acquiring additional housing for Government employees in rural and remote areas
- redeveloping the Fitzroy River riverbank in Rockhampton
- investigating designs for a new footbridge from Tank Street to the new Queensland gallery of Modern Art at the Cultural Centre

¹⁰ Minister for Public Works, Housing and Racing, Ministerial Portfolio Statement 2005-06, Department of Public Works Output Summary, 1-13.

- administering the capital grant to the Mackay City Council to construct the Mackay Convention Precinct
- reviewing the asbestos strategic management plan to incorporate the new national code of practice
- developing new whole-of-Government procurement arrangements for air charter, international air fares and other travel related products
- \$4.5M to enhance the whole-of Government secure network, GovNet
- launching the final round of the *Technology Survival Skills Program* to increase the level of ICT skills in Queensland
- developing new retention and disposal schedules for the energy sector, universities and port authorities
- responding to recommendations from the thoroughbred racing inquiry and the review of the racing integrity management structures
- establishing a working party to review the Racing Animal Welfare and Integrity Board's sample collection procedures.

Department of Housing

50. The department provides various forms of housing assistance to Queenslanders and develops strategies aimed at improving people's access to secure, affordable and appropriate housing.
51. The following table sets out details of the appropriation for 2005-06 compared to the previous financial year.

	2004-05 Estimate \$'000	2005-06 Estimate \$'000
Departmental Outputs	473,093	113,879
Equity Adjustment	(261)	56,950
Total	472,832	170,829

52. Estimated expenditure for departmental outputs in 2005-06 compared to expenditure for the prior year is detailed in the following table.¹¹

Departmental Output	2004-05 Est. Actual \$'000	2005-06 Estimate \$'000
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing	59,490	106,758
Community Housing	46,303	52,678
Community Renewal	17,453	25,232
Home Purchase Assistance	9,287	7,047
Private Housing	77,100	92,810
Public Rental Housing	317,353	328,603
Total	526,986	613,128

53. Key highlights in the Budget include:

- releasing \$70.5M in capital grants for the construction and upgrade of dwellings in 34 Indigenous communities
- \$28.5M investment in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander rental housing program
- consulting and testing a proposed home ownership model with a small number of Aboriginal communities and consulting with Torres Strait communities regarding an appropriate model for the Torres Strait
- \$3.4M to complete stage one of the Lady Bowen Complex to provide short term shelter for homeless people
- \$20M for crisis accommodation initiatives
- \$12.3M in grant funding to construct and acquire dwellings under the Long Term Community Housing Program
- \$15.5M in grants to deliver the Community Renewal Program
- \$9M to finance approximately 105 home purchase assistance loans.
- provision of 18,500 new households with Bond Loans at a cost of \$13.5M
- \$11.5M to assist 52,000 households with Home Assist Secure services

¹¹ Minister for Public Works, Housing and Racing, Ministerial Portfolio Statement, Department of Housing Output Summary, 2-7.

- \$250.3M capital investment in the public rental housing portfolio which will include
 - commencement of 377 new dwellings and completion of 316 dwellings
 - \$99.3M upgrade to existing public rental housing dwellings
 - \$39.4M to acquire 88 dwellings and two apartment complexes
 - 18.6M to purchase and develop land to facilitate future unit accommodation
 - \$49.3M to provide boarding house style accommodation for single people.
54. Issues raised with the Minister for Public Works, Housing and Racing at the hearing include:

- employment and training for trade apprentices
- departmental audits
- Workplace English Language Literacy program
- Project Services
- Prequalification System for Building Contractors and Consultants (PQC)
- construction of the Brisbane Magistrates Court
- construction of stage 2 of the State Archives at Runcorn
- final stage of the Gabba stadium redevelopment
- construction of the Gold Coast Stadium
- redevelopment of the Fitzroy River riverbank in Rockhampton
- refurbishment of stage 1 of the Cairns Convention Centre
- Community Memorials Restoration Program
- performance of government business units
- use of ethanol in government vehicles
- proposed pedestrian cycle bridge across the Brisbane River
- the Architectural Practice Academy
- the Cooperative Research Centre for Construction Innovation
- initiatives to assist the development of Indigenous communities

- whole-of-Government housing strategy for Weipa
- compliance audit on the Gatton Self help Housing Group
- property purchases for public rental housing
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander housing
- criteria for housing priority allocation
- amendments to the Residential Tenancies Act and tenancy database listings
- public housing waiting lists
- initiatives to address homelessness
- Lady Bowen Complex at Spring Hill.

Recommendation

55. The committee recommends that the proposed expenditure, as detailed in the *Appropriation Bill 2005* for the organisational units and portfolios allocated to it, be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly 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



Estimates Committee A

2005

Statements of Reservation

Mr Lawrence Springborg MP

Mr Bob Quinn MP

Lawrence Springborg MP
Leader of the Opposition
Leader of The Nationals



28 July 2005

Mr Phil Reeves MP
Chair
Estimates Committee A
Parliament House
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Reeves

I refer to the report of Estimates Committee A in relation to its consideration of Estimates for the Legislative Assembly, the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, and the Department of Public Works, Housing and Racing.

I note that the whole process of Estimates Committee Hearings suffers from the following weaknesses as a mechanism for scrutinizing Government Departments:

- The limit on the number of Questions on Notice able to be asked as part of the Estimates process
- The receipt of replies to Questions on Notice less than 24 hours prior to the actual hearing meeting of the Committee.
- The limited time available for the conduct of the hearings for individual Departments thus limiting the capacity of Parliament to explore issues of concern to finality
- The limit on each questioning session generally to 20 minutes thus inhibiting the capacity of Committee members to pursue issues of interest to finality.
- The use by Ministers and Government Members of questions to provide a basis for propaganda statements, grandstanding and media stunts rather than genuinely exploring issues relating to Departmental expenditures.

Whilst the report of the Committee is noted, I would express Reservations in relation to the following:

Legislative Assembly:

- The failure of Acting Speaker Fouras to be able to provide accurate statements of the expenditure on alcohol by Speaker Hollis for himself and his guests in relation to the question taken on notice.

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- The failure of Acting Speaker Fouras to include in the revenue of the Legislative Assembly the sum of \$57,830.28 representing the payment by Speaker Hollis of the cost of overseas travel taken without relevant approval.
- The failure of Acting Speaker Fouras in answer to Non-government Members question No. 4 to identify the individual identity of the person, Speaker, Minister, Member, Department or other body responsible for functions or social gatherings mentioned in that answer.
- The failure of Acting Speaker Fouras to provide details of all guidelines, rules, regulations or other criteria whether published internally or externally used to determine whether functions or social gatherings may be held within the parliamentary precinct.

Premier and Cabinet:

- The failure of the Premier to table the Internal Audit Report of financial transactions associated with the Office of the Speaker received by the Clerk of Parliament on 8 February 2005.
- The failure by the Premier to adequately explain the concerns of the Crime and Misconduct Commission in relation to expenses incurred by Speaker Hollis.
- The failure of the Premier to adequately explain the systems in place to adequately account for consumption of alcohol by Speaker Hollis from his personal bar.
- The failure by the Premier to advise the estimated dollar value of the amphetamines, heroin, ecstasy and cocaine markets in Queensland.
- The failure of the Premier to adequately explain matters relating to expenses incurred by Speaker Hollis that were the subject of consideration by the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions.
- The failure of the Premier to indicate firm support for the conduct of performance audits by the Auditor General.
- The failure by the Premier to support the introduction of telephone tapping powers to address issues posed by the occurrence of major crime in Queensland.
- The failure of the Premier to support the views of the Crime and Misconduct Commission in relation to the extension of telephone tapping powers to assist in the fight against organised crime including drug trafficking and paedophilia.
- The attempt by the Premier to denigrate expenditures by the Office of the Leader of the Opposition when his own office has displayed a lack of budget accountability for many years.
- The failure of the Premier to indicate continued confidence in the Director General of Queensland Health, Dr Steve Buckland.
- The failure of the Premier to accept responsibility for the policies introduced by his government in relation to overseas trained doctors in Queensland.
- The failure by the Premier to adequately account for the failure of his government to be able to recruit sufficient medical practitioners for the Queensland Public Hospital System.
- The failure of the Premier to seek to recover performance bonuses paid to the former Director General of Queensland Health, Dr Rob Stable, notwithstanding the evidence disclosed at the Morris Commission of Inquiry.
- The failure of the Premier to adequately address issues of compensation following miscarriages of justice in relation to Di Fingleton and Pauline Hanson.

- The failure of the Premier to adequately explain his willingness to meet with known Labor Party associate, Di Fingleton, to discuss issues arising out of her appearance before the Court and his unwillingness to offer Pauline Hanson a similar meeting.
- The failure of the Premier to adequately explain the indemnity rights available to members of Queensland Health and in particular, Mr Peter Leck and Dr Keating of Bundaberg Hospital, and to justify his intervention in limiting the indemnity granted to them.
- The failure of the Premier to adequately explain grants to Centrigen, National Jet Systems, Stellar Call Centres, and Universal Communications Group which had to be terminated or suspended because of a failure to fully meet the objectives of those grants.
- The failure of the Premier to justify the culture of bullying and discrimination applicable in Queensland Health as disclosed by evidence before the Morris and Forster Inquiries.

Public Works, Housing and Racing:

- The failure of the Minister for Public Works, Housing and Racing to answer questions in relation to the projects managed by Project Services. For the second consecutive year, the Minister and his departmental officers have been unable, or unwilling, to provide the Estimates Committee with detail in relation to the role, function and capability of Project Services, a business unit of the Department of Public Works.
- Vague reference was made to a portfolio of over 2,000 projects with an annual turnover of some \$600 million. However, the Estimates Committee process should not permit vague references when the effectiveness and efficiency of a business unit is under question.
- Even though Project Services allegedly procure, project manage and risk manage some \$600 million worth of projects which allegedly run into the thousands, details could not be provided to ascertain whether the projects are on time, on budget, endured significant cost variances, or whether the risk management costs were advantageous to their “clients”.
- The Parliament and the public have no avenue to check the effectiveness or efficiency of Project Services and there is no documentation to support self-proclaimed assurances regarding the capability of Project Services to deliver the projects on time or on budget.
- It is not good enough for evasive answers to be provided on some \$600 million worth of projects. How do the Parliament and the public know with certainty that the projects are being handled and managed with the utmost integrity?
- The Department of Main Roads are required legislatively to annually develop for the Minister’s approval, a Roads Implementation Plan for the year, and for one or more later years. Consistent with the *Transport Infrastructure Act 1994*, the Roads Implementation Plan includes policies which influence decision about the program of projects, outlines financial provisions, performance targets and a report on the previous year’s performance together with a program of projects of road infrastructure which Main Roads is planning to undertaken over the next five years.
- Perhaps a similar legislative model needs to be adopted to force Project Services to recognise its obligations to the Parliament and to the general public, and publish appropriate documentation that provides a high degree of public transparency and assessment on the professional and technical capability of Project Services.

- In relation to the Department of Housing, the Minister showed that this public policy area is perilously close to collapse. The output performance of the housing department was well below par in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander housing, community housing, community renewal and home purchase assistance in a period of great demand for housing and accommodation in all sectors.
- Time did not permit any proper questioning of several budgetary areas including the Queensland Building Services Authority, the Residential Tenancies Authority, and the Racing Division. Serious consideration must be given to reviewing the time constraints adopted by the Estimates Committees so that time limitations do not restrict proper budgetary analysis and assessment of important public sector entities.

I trust that these Reservations will be noted.

Yours faithfully

LAWRENCE SPRINGBORG
Leader of the Opposition

**STATEMENT OF RESERVATIONS
ESTIMATES COMMITTEE A**

**BOB QUINN MP
LEADER OF THE LIBERAL PARTY
MEMBER FOR ROBINA**

DEPARTMENT OF PREMIER AND CABINET

Information provided to the Committee that both the Crime and Misconduct Commission and the Public Service Commissioner were unaware of any of the systemic problems in Queensland Health regarding bullying and intimidation that are currently being revealed through the Forster and Morris Inquiries brings into question the effectiveness of both these organisations.

DEPUTY PREMIER, TREASURER AND MINISTER FOR SPORT

The Shared Service Initiative across government is budgeted to save \$100m but the Treasurer was unable to provide any criteria for judging that this program was on target. His response that the Committee should "Trust Treasury; it is as simple as that. I do." provides little comfort.

MINISTER FOR PUBLIC WORKS, HOUSING AND RACING

The Government Business Units comprising CITEC, Goprint, QFleet and S.D.S. have all, by the Minister's own admission experienced difficult trading conditions during the 2004 -05 financial year. Yet there seems to be little effort by the Minister in this budget to force these entities to become more efficient over the 2005-2006 financial year and decrease their dependency on the public purse.

BOB QUINN MP
Leader of the Liberal Party
Member for Robina