



Estimates Committee A

2009

Report No. 1 to the Legislative Assembly

Introduction

The Legislative Assembly appointed Estimates Committee A on 3 June 2009, in accordance with Standing Order 167(3), to investigate and report on the proposed expenditure contained in the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2009.¹

On 14 July 2009, the committee conducted a public hearing to take evidence about the budget estimates from Mr Speaker and his advisors. A verbatim transcript of the committee's hearing can be accessed at:

<http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/view/committees/EC.asp>

Prior to the public hearing, the committee provided Mr Speaker with twenty questions on notice about the estimates for his portfolio. Mr Speaker provided responses to all the committee's questions.

The committee considered the estimates referred to it by using information contained in:

- Budget papers;
- Answers to pre-hearing questions on notice;
- Evidence taken at the hearing; and
- Additional information given in relation to answers.

Mr Speaker's responses to the committee's pre-hearing questions together with the minutes of the committee's meetings are included in a volume of additional information tabled with this report.

Legislative Assembly and the Parliamentary Service

The Legislative Assembly of Queensland consists of 89 Members who discharge a range of important legislative and constituency responsibilities. The Parliamentary Service established in accordance with the *Parliamentary Service Act 1988* provides administrative and support services to the Legislative Assembly.

The following table taken from the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2009 compares the appropriations for the Legislative Assembly for 2008-09 and 2009-10.

Appropriations	2008-09 \$'000	2009-10 \$'000
<i>Controlled Items</i>		
Departmental Outputs	61,434	71,221
Equity Adjustments	(2,879)	(2,597)
<i>Administered Items</i>	0	0
Vote	64,555	68,624

Source: Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2009, p.6.

Budgeted capital expenditure for 2009-10 is \$4.13 million.²

Budget highlights

According to the Service Delivery Statements, the budget highlights for the Legislative Assembly for 2009-10 include:

- Establishing, resourcing, and administrative support for the new parliamentary committee system;
- Coordination and delivery of official community activities to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Queensland Parliament in 2010;
- Improvements to building infrastructure within the parliamentary precinct;
- Replacement and upgrade of certain office and computer equipment in electorate offices and the parliamentary precinct; and
- Relocation of a number of Member's electorate offices as a result of the 2008 electoral redistribution.

Issues raised at the public hearing

Issues the committee raised with Mr Speaker at the hearing on 14 July include:

- The security audit of electorate offices;
- Security of the parliamentary precinct;
- Changes in budgeting for the parliamentary committee system;
- The energy efficiency rating of the air-conditioning upgrade for the parliamentary precinct;

¹ As the committee was required to report on other portfolios in accordance with Standing Order 186(2), the committee is reporting separately on the proposed expenditure for the Legislative Assembly.

² *State Budget 2009-10, Capital Statement – Budget Paper No.3*, p. 99.

- Additional information on the community engagement activities of the Parliamentary Service;
- The establishment of a Speaker's Advisory Committee;
- The details of the official ceremony, swearing-in the Governor;
- How the Queensland Parliament has engaged and supported other parliaments in our region over the past year;
- Problems with the plumbing in the parliamentary precinct.

Recommendation

The committee recommends that the proposed expenditure, as detailed in the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2009, be agreed to without amendment.

Carolyn Male

Carolyn Male MP
Chair

July 2009

Committee Members

Chair

Mr Simon Finn MP Member for Yeerongpilly
(Chair from 3 June – 26 July; 2-3 August 2009)

Ms Carolyn Male MP Member for Pine Rivers
(Chair from 27 July – 1 August 2009)

Other Members

Mr John-Paul Langbroek MP (Deputy Chair)
Member for Surfers Paradise

Mrs Julie Attwood MP
Member for Mount Ommaney

Mrs Betty Kiernan MP
Member for Mount Isa

Mr Tim Nicholls MP
Member for Clayfield

Mr Kerry Shine MP
Member for Toowoomba North

Mrs Jann Stuckey
Member for Currumbin

Secretariat

Mr Rob Hansen (Research Director)

Mr Alistair MacLennan (Research Officer)

Ms Carolyn Heffernan (Executive Assistant)