



Speech By
Dr Christian Rowan

MEMBER FOR MOGGILL

Record of Proceedings, 27 June 2025

COMMITTEES

Estimates Hearings



Dr ROWAN (Moggill—LNP) (Leader of the House) (8.35 pm): I move—

That—

1. sessional orders, including the estimates 2025 program for each portfolio committee in table 1 circulated in my name; and
2. amendments to the standing rules and orders of the Legislative Assembly circulated in my name

both be agreed to, effective upon assent to the Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025.

Sessional Orders, including Estimates 2025 program for each portfolio committee

1. For the consideration of the Annual Appropriation Bills for 2025-2026, so much of Standing and Sessional Orders is suspended to enable:
 - (a) The portfolio committees to only hold hearings and take evidence on the areas of responsibility, on the dates and within the timeframes provided in Table 1.
 - (b) The Leader of the House, after consultation with the Speaker, if necessary, to issue a memorandum changing the days and times for each hearing in Table 1;
 - (c) Where a Minister administers a number of distinct portfolio areas, matters relating to each portfolio area can only be raised during the hearing time specified for that portfolio in Table 1.
2. In accordance with Standing Order 177(5), each portfolio committee is to report to the House on the annual appropriation bills by Friday 15 August 2025.

TABLE 1 PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE, AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY, DATES OF HEARING AND TIMEFRAMES

GOVERNANCE, ENERGY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Monday 28 July 2025

AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY	SPEAKER	HEARING TIMES
Queensland Parliament	Speaker 1.5 hours	PARLIAMENTARY SERVICE 2:00pm—3:30pm

GOVERNANCE, ENERGY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE*Tuesday 29 July 2025*

AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY	MINISTER	HEARING TIMES
Premier and Cabinet Veterans	Premier and Minister for Veterans 4 hours	PREMIER 9:00am—11:00am BREAK 11:00am—11:15am PREMIER 11:15am—12:45pm VETERANS 12:45pm—1:15pm BREAK 1:15pm—2:00pm
Treasury, Energy and Home Ownership	Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership 4.5 hours	TREASURY 2:00pm—4:30pm HOME OWNERSHIP 4:30pm—5:00pm BREAK 5:00pm—5:30pm ENERGY 5:30pm—7:00pm

GOVERNANCE, ENERGY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE*Wednesday 30 July 2025*

AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY	MINISTER	HEARING TIMES
Finance, Trade, Employment and Training	Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training 3 hours	FINANCE 9:00am—10:00am TRADE 10:00am—11:00am BREAK 11:00am—11:15am EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING 11:15am—12:15pm BREAK 12:15pm—1:00pm

STATE DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE AND WORKS COMMITTEE*Wednesday 30 July 2025*

AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY	MINISTER	HEARING TIMES
State Development, Infrastructure, Planning and Industrial Relations	Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning, and Minister for Industrial Relations 4.5 hours	STATE DEVELOPMENT 1:00pm—2:30pm INFRASTRUCTURE 2:30pm—4:00pm BREAK 4:00pm—4:30pm PLANNING 4:30pm—5:00pm INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS 5:00pm—6:00pm

STATE DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE AND WORKS COMMITTEE*Thursday 31 July 2025*

AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY	MINISTER	HEARING TIMES
Housing, Public Works and Youth	Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth 3.5 hours	HOUSING 8:30am—10:30am BREAK 10:30am—10:45am PUBLIC WORKS 10:45am—11:45am YOUTH 11:45am—12:15pm BREAK 12:15pm—1:00pm
Sport, Racing, Olympic and Paralympic Games	Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games 3.5 hours	SPORT 1:00pm—2:45pm BREAK 2:45pm—3:00pm RACING 3:00pm—3:30pm OLYMPICS AND PARALYMPICS 3:30pm—4:45pm BREAK 4:45pm—5:15pm
Transport and Main Roads	Minister for Transport and Main Roads 4 hours	ALL PORTFOLIO 5:15pm—7:15pm BREAK 7:15pm—7:30pm ALL PORTFOLIO 7:30pm—9:30pm

HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE*Friday 1 August 2025*

AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY	MINISTER	HEARING TIMES
Health and Ambulance Services	Minister for Health and Ambulance Services 4 hours	HEALTH 9:00am—10:30am BREAK 10:30am—10:45am HEALTH 10:45am—12:15pm BREAK 12:15pm—12:30pm AMBULANCE SERVICES 12:30pm—1:30pm BREAK 1:30pm—2:15pm
Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation	Minister for the Environment and Tourism and Minister for Science and Innovation 4.5 hours	ENVIRONMENT 2:15pm—3:45pm BREAK 3:45pm—4:00pm SCIENCE AND INNOVATION 4:00pm—5:00 pm BREAK 5:00pm—5:15pm TOURISM 5:15pm—7:15pm

JUSTICE, INTEGRITY AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE*Tuesday 5 August 2025*

AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY	MINISTER	HEARING TIMES
Attorney-General, Justice and Integrity	Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Integrity 3 hours	ALL PORTFOLIO 9:00am—10:30am BREAK 10:30am—10:45am ALL PORTFOLIO 10:45am—12:15pm BREAK 12:15pm—1:00pm
Police and Emergency Services	Minister for Police and Emergency Services 3 hours	POLICE 1:00pm—2:30pm BREAK 2:30pm—2:45pm EMERGENCY SERVICES 2:45pm—4:15pm BREAK 4:15pm—4:45pm

AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY	MINISTER	HEARING TIMES
Youth Justice, Victim Support, Corrective Services	Minister for Youth Justice and Victim Support and Minister for Corrective Services 3 hours	YOUTH JUSTICE AND VICTIMS 4:45pm—6:45pm BREAK 6:45pm—7:00pm CORRECTIVE SERVICES 7:00pm—8:00pm

PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Wednesday 6 August 2025

AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY	MINISTER	HEARING TIMES
Natural Resources and Mines and Manufacturing and Regional and Rural Development	Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Minister for Manufacturing and Minister for Regional and Rural Development 4 hours	NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINES 9:00am—11:00am BREAK 11:00am—11:15am MANUFACTURING AND REGIONAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT 11:15am—1:15pm BREAK 1:15pm—2:00pm
Primary Industries	Minister for Primary Industries 3.5 hours	ALL PORTFOLIO 2:00pm—3:45pm BREAK 3:45pm—4:00pm ALL PORTFOLIO 4:00pm—5:45pm

EDUCATION, ARTS AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Thursday 7 August 2025

AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY	MINISTER	HEARING TIMES
Education and Arts	Minister for Education and the Arts 3.25 hours	EDUCATION 9:00am—11:30am BREAK 11:30am—11:45am ARTS 11:45am—12:30pm BREAK 12:30pm—1:15pm

AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY	MINISTER	HEARING TIMES
Women and Women's Economic Security, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Multiculturalism	Minister for Women, Women's Economic Security, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Multiculturalism 3.5 hours	ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PARTNERSHIPS 1:15pm—2:45pm BREAK 2:45pm—3:00pm MULTICULTURALISM 3:00pm—4:00pm WOMEN AND WOMEN'S ECONOMIC SECURITY 4:00pm—5:00pm BREAK 5:00pm—5:30pm
Families, Seniors, Disability Services, Child Safety and Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence	Minister for Families, Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Child Safety and the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence 3 hours	CHILD SAFETY 5:30pm—6:30pm BREAK 6:30pm—6:45pm FAMILIES, SENIORS AND DISABILITY SERVICES 6:45pm—7:45pm PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE 7:45pm—8:45pm

LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SMALL BUSINESS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE COMMITTEE

Friday 8 August 2025

AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY	MINISTER	HEARING TIMES
Customer Services, Open Data, Small and Family Business	Minister for Customer Services and Open Data and Minister for Small and Family Business 3 hours	SMALL AND FAMILY BUSINESS 9:00am—11:00am BREAK 11:00am—11:15am CUSTOMER SERVICES AND OPEN DATA 11:15am—12:15pm BREAK 12:15pm—1:00pm
Local Government, Water, Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers	Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers 4 hours	FIRE 1:00pm—2:00pm DISASTER RECOVERY AND VOLUNTEERS 2:00pm—3:00pm BREAK 3:00pm—3:15pm LOCAL GOVERNMENT 3:15pm—4:15pm WATER 4:15pm—5:15pm

Amendments to Standing Orders

1. Standing Order 179. Open hearings—

Omit, insert—

‘179. Speaker is Chairperson for public hearings in respect of estimates

(1) Portfolio committees may only hold hearings and take evidence in respect of an annual appropriation bill (estimates hearings) on the dates allocated by order of the House at times agreed to by the committee between 9.00am and 9.30pm.

(2) A portfolio committee’s estimates hearings are open to the public unless the committee otherwise orders.

(3) In accordance with s.91D of the Parliament of Queensland 2001 Act,¹ when a portfolio committee is examining a Bill for an annual appropriation Act in a public hearing and the Speaker or the Deputy Speaker is the chairperson of the committee, the Speaker or Deputy Speaker has all the powers and duties of a chairperson.

(4) If the Speaker is present as a witness before a public hearing mentioned in (3), the Deputy Speaker is the chairperson.

(5) If during an estimates hearing it becomes necessary for a portfolio committee to deliberate in private under Standing Order 207, the Speaker shall not attend the private meeting, and the Committee Chairperson presides over the meeting.

(6) If during an estimates hearing the Speaker makes a ruling and any member challenges that ruling, it shall be decided by the portfolio committee and Standing Order 250 does not apply.

(7) The Speaker’s determinations about the maintenance of order, cannot be challenged in committee and Standing Order 250 does not apply.’

2. Standing Order 180. Opening hearing procedure

Omit, insert—

‘180. Opening hearing procedure

(1) In a portfolio committee’s estimates hearing:

(a) the Speaker or Deputy Speaker is to call on the estimates of the proposed expenditure for the area of responsibility which the committee is to examine and declare the proposed expenditure open for examination; and

(b) the Speaker or Deputy Speaker is to put the question “That the proposed expenditure be agreed to”.

(2) In respect of Government Owned Corporations and statutory authorities, a member may ask any question which the committee determines will assist it in its examination of the relevant Appropriation Bill or otherwise assist the committee to determine whether public funds are being efficiently spent or appropriate public guarantees are being provided.’

3. Standing Order 185, The Power of the Chairperson to order withdrawal of a disorderly member

Omit, insert—

‘185. Power of the Speaker to order withdrawal of a disorderly member

(1) At a portfolio committee’s estimates hearing, the Speaker or Deputy Speaker may, after a warning, order any member whose conduct in their opinion continues to be grossly disorderly or disruptive to withdraw for a stated period.

(2) A member ordered to withdraw in accordance with (1), shall immediately withdraw for the stated period.’

¹ Section 91D of the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001* provides:

91D Chairperson for certain public hearings

(1) If a portfolio committee is examining a Bill for an annual appropriation Act in a public hearing under the Constitution of Queensland 2001, section 26C the Speaker or the Deputy Speaker is the chairperson of the committee.

(2) If the Speaker is present as a witness before a public hearing mentioned in subsection (1), the Deputy Speaker is the chairperson.

(3) This section applies despite sections 91(3), 91A(3), 91B(3), and 91C(3).

4. Standing Orders, Schedule 7 CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Omit, insert—

'SCHEDULE 7 – CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

In accordance with Standing Order 181(c), the following table lists entities to which direct questioning of Chief Executives at Estimates is to apply.

Entities to which direct questioning of Chief Executives at Estimates is to apply

Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service	QIC Limited
Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service	Queensland Academy of Sport
Central West Hospital and Health Service	Queensland Art Gallery
Children's Health Queensland Hospital and Health Service	Queensland Audit Office
CleanCo Queensland Limited	Queensland Building and Construction Commission
Coexistence Queensland	Queensland Bulk Water Supply Authority (Seqwater)
Coordinator-General	Queensland Competition Authority
Crime and Corruption Commission	Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority
Cross River Rail Delivery Authority	Queensland Electricity Transmission Corporation Limited (Powerlink Queensland)
CS Energy Limited	Queensland Family and Child Commission
Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service	Queensland Human Rights Commission
Economic Development Queensland	Queensland Institute of Medical Research
Electoral Commission of Queensland	Queensland Mental Health Commission
Energy and Water Ombudsman	Queensland Museum
Energy Queensland Limited	Queensland Performing Arts Centre / Queensland Performing Arts Trust
Family Responsibilities Commission	Queensland Productivity Commission
Far North Queensland Ports Corporation Limited (Ports North)	Queensland Racing Integrity Commission
Games Independent Infrastructure and Coordination Authority	Queensland Rail
Gladstone Ports Corporation Limited	Queensland Reconstruction Authority
Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service	Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority
Gold Coast Waterways Authority	Queensland Theatre Company
Health and Wellbeing Queensland	Queensland Training Ombudsman
Land Access Ombudsman	Queensland Treasury Corporation
Legal Aid Queensland	Racing Queensland
Mackay Hospital and Health Service	Residential Tenancies Authority
Metro North Hospital and Health Service	Resources Safety and Health Queensland
Metro South Hospital and Health Service	Screen Queensland Pty Ltd
Motor Accident Insurance Commission	South Bank Corporation
National Injury Insurance Agency, Queensland	South West Hospital and Health Service
Nominal Defendant	Stadiums Queensland
North Queensland Bulk Ports Corporation Limited	Stanwell Corporation Limited
North West Hospital and Health Service	State Library of Queensland / Library Board of Queensland
Office of the Governor	Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service
Office of the Health Ombudsman	Sunwater Limited
Office of the Information Commissioner	TAFE Queensland
Office of the Inspector General of Emergency Management	The Public Trustee of Queensland
Office of the Queensland Integrity Commissioner	Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service
Office of the Queensland Ombudsman	Tourism and Events Queensland
Office of the Work Health and Safety Prosecutor	Townsville Hospital and Health Service
Port of Townsville Limited	Trade and Investment Queensland
Public Sector Commission	West Moreton Hospital and Health Service
	Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service

In addressing this motion, and following the passage of the 2025-26 state budget of the Crisafulli LNP state government—a state budget that sets the foundation for delivering for Queenslanders by providing economic stability, enhanced service delivery and long-term reform—we now look ahead to one of the most important democratic responsibilities of the Queensland parliament: the consideration of the annual appropriation bills through the budget estimates committee hearings. These committee hearings are vital and go to the core and foundation of parliamentary accountability. It is where the decisions contained within the state budget are properly scrutinised by this House. It is where ministers are held to account and where transparency with respect to government expenditure is not merely expected but required. Estimates is a central mechanism through which this parliament upholds its responsibilities to the people of Queensland to examine, to question and to test the overall performance of the state government.

This year, and through this motion, we embark on long overdue reform—reform that enhances the integrity, transparency and standing of estimates within the framework of parliamentary democracy in Queensland. This motion gives practical effect to key amendments contained within the Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 with respect to the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001. These amendments, as passed by the Legislative Assembly, are an important step forward. They fulfil a clear election commitment of the Premier to reform the budget estimates process and restore its intended function.

For too long Queenslanders have observed an estimates process that fell short of its purpose. Under the former government, what should have been a rigorous examination of public expenditure became a stage-managed exercise in avoidance and protection. The reforms contained within this motion reaffirm the foundational purpose of estimates for the careful and thorough examination of government expenditure, performance and effectiveness.

Under these reforms, and for the first time, the Speaker and Deputy Speaker will preside over all estimates public hearings. This change will bring consistency to proceedings and lift the standard of hearings across all committees. It is not merely about who sits in the chair but how they preside over the process. It is about ensuring rigour, impartiality and discipline in proceedings. Specifically, the motion provides for not only an additional four hours of time allocated to the total estimates hearings but also an additional day added to the schedule. The Crisafulli state government is committed to accountability and strengthening the estimates hearings.

The motion also enacts key changes to the standing orders. Standing order 179 now confirms that the Speaker or Deputy Speaker will preside at all estimates public hearings. It outlines procedures for absence, private deliberation, rulings and the maintenance of order. Standing order 180 formalises the opening procedure for estimates hearings with the Speaker or Deputy Speaker declaring the proposed expenditure open for examination and putting the question that it be agreed to. Standing order 185 confirms the Speaker's power to order the withdrawal of a disorderly member from an estimates hearing, reinforcing the need for discipline and decorum.

Further, as has been the practice in previous years, the motion contains a provision enabling the Leader of the House, in consultation with the Speaker, to vary the days and times of estimates hearings should exceptional circumstances arise such as illness of a minister or a natural disaster. This contingency is a prudent safeguard. The motion also updates schedule 7 of the standing orders, ensuring the continued application of entities to which direct questions of chief executives are to apply.

Finally, I take this opportunity to acknowledge the Parliamentary Service and the dedicated staff of the committee secretariats who support these proceedings with professionalism and discretion. I also thank in advance the many public servants who prepare rigorously for estimates just as they contribute tirelessly to the development of the state budget.

On behalf of the Crisafulli Liberal National Party state government, I thank them not only for their work on the budget and estimates but for everything they do each and every day to support the delivery of services and opportunities across our state. As such, I commend the motion to the House.