

Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2020

Explanatory Notes

Short title

The short title of the Bill is *Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2020*.

Policy objectives and the reasons for them

Background

The *Appropriation (Parliament) Act 2019* (assented to on 5 September 2019) appropriated the amount of \$100,009,000 from the consolidated fund for the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service for the financial year starting 1 July 2019. It also authorised \$50,004,500 from the Consolidated Fund for the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service for the financial year starting 1 July 2020 (interim supply for Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service).

2019-20 Supplementary appropriation

This Bill provides for supplementary appropriation for the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service for unforeseen expenditure that occurred in the 2019-20 financial year.

On the recommendation of the Treasurer, the Governor in Council authorised unforeseen expenditure that occurred in the 2019-20 financial year, that is, expenditure from the Consolidated Fund in excess of the amount provided by the *Appropriation (Parliament) Act 2019*, in accordance with section 35 of the *Financial Accountability Act 2009*. Payments from the Consolidated Fund, including unforeseen expenditure, must be formally authorised under an Act of Parliament in accordance with section 66 of the *Constitution of Queensland 2001*.

Timely consideration of unforeseen expenditure enhances transparency and accountability of Government expenditure. As such, supplementary appropriation is sought via a separate Appropriation Bill as soon as possible after the end of the financial year rather than combined with the annual Appropriation Bills introduced next year at Budget time.

The supplementary appropriation sought is based on the Consolidated Fund Financial Report, noting unforeseen expenditure to be appropriated, which has been prepared by the Treasurer and reported on by the Auditor-General in accordance with section 23 of the *Financial Accountability Act 2009*.

An explanation of unforeseen expenditure requirements by the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service has been provided as part of the 2019-20 Consolidated Fund Financial Report.

2020-21 Interim supply

The Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2020 also provides for additional Interim Supply for the 2020-21 financial year. This is due to the postponement of Annual Appropriation Bills for 2020-21 alongside the postponement of the 2020-21 Budget.

The *Appropriation (Parliament) Act 2019* (assented to on 5 September 2019) included \$50,004,500 of interim supply for 2020-21, equivalent to half of the 2019-20 appropriation. The intention was that this amount would provide sufficient supply for agencies to continue the ordinary operations of government until the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill for 2020-21 received assent.

As the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill for 2020-21 will not be introduced until after the 2020 State election, additional interim supply is required. The Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2020 provides for \$50,523,500 additional interim supply.

Achievement of policy objectives

The policy objectives of the Bill for supplementary appropriation are achieved as payments from the Consolidated Fund, including unforeseen expenditure, must be formally authorised under an Act of Parliament in accordance with section 66 of the *Constitution of Queensland 2001*.

The Bill also appropriates additional interim supply for 2020-21 ensuring the total amount of interim supply for 2020-21 is sufficient for the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service to continue their ordinary operations until the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill for 2020-21 receives assent.

Alternative ways of achieving policy objectives

The policy objective can only be achieved by legislation.

Estimated cost for government implementation

There are not any additional administrative costs in implementing the Bill as it seeks Parliamentary approval for expenditure incurred in the 2019-20 financial year and additional interim supply for 2020-21.

Consistency with fundamental legislative principles

The Bill is consistent with fundamental legislative principles.

Consultation

Consultation has been undertaken with the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service in establishing the appropriation payable to them pursuant to this Bill.

Consistency with legislation of other jurisdictions

The Bill is specific to the State of Queensland, and is not complementary to legislation of the Commonwealth or another state.

Notes on provisions

Clause 1 provides for the short title of the Act.

Clause 2(1) authorises the Treasurer to pay \$519,000 from the Consolidated Fund for the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service for the financial year starting 1 July 2019.

Clause 2(2) provides that for the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service, the total amount mentioned in Schedule 1 is appropriated for its departmental services, administered items and equity adjustment for the year as stated in the Schedule.

Clause 3(1) provides additional interim supply of \$50,523,500 for 2020-21.

Clause 3(2) clarifies that the amount in subsection (1) is in addition to interim supply amount already appropriated for the 2020-21 financial year by previously assented legislation.