

**Question on Notice**  
**No. 377**  
**Asked on 22 April 2020**

**Ms S Bolton** asked Premier and Minister for Trade (Hon. A Palaszczuk)—

QUESTION:

Given the current restrictions for COVID-19—

Will the Premier advise what provision is being made for a substitute estimates process including lodging additional questions on notice relating to budgetary issues?

ANSWER:

I acknowledge the genuine interest that the Member for Noosa has in the importance of the Parliament's budget estimates process.

The COVID-19 public health emergency has impacted upon the annual budgetary processes of Australian governments with the federal budget deferred from May until October this year.

Consistent with the Federal Government, and all other States and Territories, Queensland suspended the budget for 2020-21 because, as the Prime Minister and Governor of the Reserve Bank have said, it is simply not sensible to produce economic forecasts at this time.

As the member will be aware, on 19 May 2020, the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure and Planning informed the Parliament that in September this year, he will release the government's COVID-19 fiscal and economic review. This publication will adopt the same standards used for the midyear fiscal and economic review, which is trusted by financial markets, ratings agencies and Queenslanders.

To ensure full scrutiny and accountability, the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure and Planning and I will make ourselves available to appear before the Economics and Governance Committee.

In relation to broader parliamentary processes, the member will note that despite the COVID-19 emergency, the Parliament has still been sitting, and all of the opportunities remain for members on sitting days to ask ministers questions or raise matters during debates.

It is the government's intention to sit every month between now and October subject to health advice.