Question on Notice

No. 446

Asked on 31 July 2012

MR PITT ASKED THE TREASURER AND MINISTER FOR TRADE (MR NICHOLLS)—

QUESTION:

With reference to page 197 of the Commission of Audit Interim Report where it states with reference to meeting a 3% cap on employee expenses that ‘In addition the Government should examine the current provisions for growth funding in the forward estimates, particularly in the health and educations sectors’—

Will the government be reducing growth funding in the health and education sectors to meet the 3% cap on employee expenses?

ANSWER:

The Commission of Audit found that Queensland had moved from a position of considerable financial strength just six years ago to a position of weakness today.

In relation to the issue of growth funding the Commission’s comments were in the context of measures which could contain the cost of recurrent expenditure.

The Government is committed to containing the growth of expenditure to sustainable levels. The Government’s interim response to the Commission of Audit’s Interim Report charts a course to stabilise debt levels and return the Budget to fiscal balance by 2014-15.

The specific measures to achieve this urgent fiscal repair will be fully documented in the State Budget to be presented on 11 September 2012.