

Question on Notice

No. 58

Asked on 15 February 2017

MR S EMERSON ASKED THE TREASURER AND MINISTER FOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT (HON C PITT)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise the total cost of the two inquiries undertaken and completed by the Queensland Productivity Commission (reported separately), namely Electricity Pricing and Solar Feed-in Pricing, individually itemising the costs associated with each inquiry such as employee expenses, supplies and services, travel expenses and any other costs?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Productivity Commission's (QPC) electricity pricing inquiry was undertaken within the administered budget of the QPC, from when it became a statutory body in November 2015. The total cost of the Electricity Inquiry from that time was \$1.1 million. Of this amount \$772,143 was spent on employee expenses and \$19,992 was spent on consultation and travel.

The QPC's Solar Feed-in Pricing in Queensland inquiry was also undertaken within the administered budget of the QPC, from when it became a statutory body in November 2015, at a cost of \$0.5 million. Of this amount \$372,905 was spent on employee expenses and \$9,823 was spent on consultation and travel.

The cost of the electricity pricing and the solar feed-in inquiry during the period April 2015 to November 2015 is not available, as during this time the QPC operated as a Government entity under the *Public Service Act 2008*, with funding administered by Queensland Treasury. The QPC's total costs in this period were \$1,491,180 for all QPC functions (Inquiries, Office of Best Practice Regulation, Competitive Neutrality Investigations, Research and Corporate (including establishment costs)).

As noted at page 3 of the QPC's 2015-16 Annual Report, the QPC has indicated it will be publicly reporting on a range of performance indicators going forward, including the breakdown of costs across its activities and in regard to individual inquiries.