

Question on Notice
No. 1513
Asked on 19 September 2019

Mr T Mander asked Premier and Minister for Trade (Hon. A Palaszczuk)—

QUESTION:

With reference to the Townsville regional parliament—

Will the Premier provide a detailed breakdown of all associated costs including (a) accommodation, (b) security, (c) police, (d) venue hire, (e) community engagement and (f) all other costs?

ANSWER:

There have been five regional sittings of the Queensland Parliament – Townsville (2002), Rockhampton (2005), Cairns (2008), Mackay (2011) and Townsville (2019).

The costs for holding regional sittings of the Parliament include venue hire and overheads; chamber and venue fit out, equipment and communications; community engagement events such as a State Reception and other community functions; and radio and print advertising.

For many of these costs, the Parliamentary Service meets the initial expense and is then reimbursed by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC).

In relation to the sitting in Townsville in September 2019, I am advised by the Director-General of DPC that a number of invoices and verification processes are yet to be received and finalised around these matters and as such, it is not possible to provide a final cost for the 2019 sitting at this stage.

As Premier, I was proud to initiate bringing the Parliament and my Government to Townsville in September, so that north Queenslanders, including numerous school children, could see their Parliament in action firsthand.

It is acknowledged that with any regional sitting there will be a financial cost. It should be noted though, that regional sittings do provide an economic benefit to the area in which they are held by bringing certain expenditure to that area that would otherwise be outlaid in Brisbane.

Furthermore, it should be remembered that sitting weeks in Brisbane bring with them their own financial costs with travel for members to Brisbane and the payment of related allowances.