



COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Report No. 2

Annual Reports of Former Committees

Due to reforms to the Queensland Parliament's Committee system, a number of committees of the Legislative Assembly ceased to exist in mid June 2011, prior to the tabling of their 2010-2011 annual reports.

The Committee of the Legislative Assembly, which now has administrative responsibility for the Parliamentary Service, has therefore resolved to publish annual reports for the previously existing committees.

These annual reports have been prepared by the secretariats for the previous committees and are attached.

Hon Judy Spence MP

Chair



COMMITTEE SYSTEM REVIEW COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2010 – 2011

INTRODUCTION

The Committee System Review Committee was established by resolution of the Legislative Assembly on 25 February 2010. The committee ceased upon delivery of its report to the Legislative Assembly on 15 December 2010.

The committee tabled an annual report for 2009 - 2010. This report summarises the activities and expenditure of the committee from 1 July 2010 to 15 December 2010.

REVIEW OF COMMITTEES

The committee had the following terms of reference:

To conduct an inquiry and report on how the Parliamentary oversight of legislation could be enhanced and how the existing Parliamentary Committee system could be strengthened to enhance accountability.

In undertaking this inquiry, the committee should consider—

- *the role of Parliamentary committees in both Australian and international jurisdictions in examining legislative proposals, particularly those with unicameral parliaments;*
- *timely and cost effective ways by which Queensland Parliamentary Committees can more effectively evaluate and examine legislative proposals; and*
- *the effectiveness of the operation of the committee structure of the 53rd Parliament following the restructure of the committee system on 23 April 2009.*

The committee should include in its report options on models for structuring the Queensland Parliamentary Committee system.

As noted in the 2009-10 annual report, prior to 30 June 2010, the committee had called for public submissions and received 32 submissions in response. One further submission was received subsequent to that date. As reported in its final report:

- The committee held a public hearing in Brisbane on 20 August 2010.
- The committee held meetings with chairs and deputy chairs and the Clerk of the Parliament.
- A delegation visited Canada and there held discussions with members and officers of the

Parliament of Canada and the provincial legislatures of Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia.

MEETING ATTENDANCE FROM 1 JULY 2010

	J Spence	L Springborg	S Finn	M Horan	C Male	E Moorhead	D Pratt	R Swarten	J Seenev
8 Dec	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
24 Nov	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓
17 Nov	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
27 Oct	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6 Oct	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓
15 Sep	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
1 Sep	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
18 Aug	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X	✓
4 Aug	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

COMMITTEE EXPENDITURE AND REVENUE

Expenditure

Item	\$
Employee related expenses ¹	167,070.78
Business travel expenses	73,145.02
Printing and Production	1,215.00
Telecommunication expenses	844.95
Other costs	1,774.73
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	244,050.48








Revenue



The Committee had no revenue for the period.

WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION ACT 1994

During 2010-11 no disclosures were made to the committee in accordance with the *Whistleblowers Protection Act 1994*.

MEMBERSHIP

	Hon Judy Spence MP Chair Member for Sunnybank
	Mr Lawrence Springborg MP Deputy Chair Member for Southern Downs
	Mr Simon Finn MP Member for Yeerongpilly
	Mr Mike Horan MP Member for Toowoomba South
	Ms Carolyn Male MP Member for Pine Rivers
	Mr Evan Moorhead MP Member for Waterford
	Mrs Dorothy Pratt MP Member for Nanango

	Hon Robert Schwarten MP Member for Rockhampton
	Mr Jeff Seeney MP Member for Callide

SECRETARIAT

Mr Stephen Finnimore, Research Director
Ms Jo Mathers, Principal Research Officer
Ms Tamara Vitale, Executive Assistant

¹ Includes salaries, allowances, taxes, superannuation and recruitment expenses.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2010 – 2011

INTRODUCTION

The Economic Development Committee was established by resolution of the Legislative Assembly on 23 April 2009. The committee was dissolved on 16 June 2011.

This report summarises the work of the committee in the 2010-2011 financial year.

The role of the committee was to monitor and report on issues in the policy areas of employment, infrastructure, transport, trade, industry development, agriculture and tourism.

During this period, the committee completed an inquiry into the road safety benefits of fixed speed cameras and an inquiry into developing Queensland's rural and regional communities through grey nomad tourism.

INQUIRY INTO THE ROAD SAFETY BENEFITS OF FIXED SPEED CAMERAS

On 7 October 2010, the committee tabled Report No. 4, *Inquiry into the road safety benefits of fixed speed cameras*.

The committee examined and reported on the road safety benefits of fixed speed cameras in Queensland. Specifically, it considered:

- the effectiveness of fixed speed cameras in reducing speeding and road trauma
- the criteria used to select sites for fixed speed cameras
- the most efficient use of resources to maximise the road safety benefits of fixed speed cameras
- the impact of new technologies on fixed speed cameras
- the appropriate role of fixed speed cameras in the overall speed enforcement regime.

The committee released an issues paper, which was distributed to over 800 interested individuals and groups. The committee also met

with road safety experts, undertook a study visit to Melbourne and Canberra, and held a public hearing in Brisbane.

The report recognised that fixed speed cameras save lives and reduce the costs of road trauma. It also recognised that fixed speed cameras remain a relative small part of the Queensland Government's speed enforcement measures.

The committee made 15 recommendations to address a range of issues, including better communication with the community about the effectiveness of speed cameras and the laws restricting speed camera revenue from being included with general government revenue.

On 10 January 2011, the Hon Rachel Nolan MP, Minister for Transport tabled an interim response to the report noting that a full response to the report would be tabled as soon as possible. On 4 April 2011, a whole-of-government response was tabled addressing the committee's recommendations.

Of the 15 recommendations, the government supported ten recommendations, partially supported one recommendation, and did not support four recommendations.²

INQUIRY INTO DEVELOPING QUEENSLAND'S RURAL AND REGIONAL COMMUNITIES THROUGH GREY NOMAD TOURISM

On 17 February 2011, the committee tabled Report No. 5, *Inquiry into developing Queensland's rural and regional communities through grey nomad tourism*.

The committee investigated the development of Queensland's rural and regional communities through grey nomad tourism. Specifically, it considered:

² Ministerial responses to committee reports are available on the website.

- the role of grey nomad tourism in developing Queensland's rural and regional communities
- infrastructure requirements for grey nomads
- marketing and promotion of Queensland to potential grey nomad visitors
- the role of government in facilitating grey nomad tourism in Queensland
- the utilisation of grey nomad skills and labour in rural and regional Queensland.

The committee released an issues paper, which was distributed to over 275 interested individuals and groups. The committee also met with Associate Professor Ian Patterson, School of Tourism, University of Queensland, and held a public hearing in Brisbane.

The report recognised that grey nomads make a significant economic contribution for rural and regional communities. It also recognised the need to support local governments to find local solutions to balance competing interests between local councils, caravan park owners, retail businesses and grey nomad travellers.

The committee made 19 recommendations to help manage and grow grey nomad tourism, including marketing strategies, grant funding and grey nomad employment.

On 12 May 2011, a ministerial response was tabled to address the committee's recommendations.

Of the 19 recommendations, the government supported seven recommendations, supported the outcomes sought by nine recommendations, acknowledged the outcomes sought by one recommendation, supported one recommendation in principle, partially supported one recommendation and did not support two recommendations.

Government support for a number of the recommendations was contingent on the need for stronger and more rigorous evidence base, including the undertaking of a comprehensive evaluation of grey nomads, as recommended by the committee.

MEETING ATTENDANCE

The committee held 13 meetings during 2010 – 2011.

Date of meeting	Mr Evan Moorhead MP	Mrs Rosemary Menkens MP	Ms Tracy Davis MP	Ms Jan Jarratt MP (until 21 Feb 2011)	Mrs Betty Kiernan MP	Mr Shane Knuth MP	Mr Jason O'Brien MP
4 Aug 2010	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6 Aug 2010	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
17 Aug 2009	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓	✓
18 Aug 2010	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
20 Aug 2010	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	X
1 Sep 2010	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
15 Sep 2010	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6 Oct 2010	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	✓
27 Oct 2010	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
24 Nov 2010	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
16 Feb 2011	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
9 Mar 2011	✓	✓	✓	n/a	✓	✓	✓
23 Mar 2011	✓	✓	✓	✓	n/a	✓	✓

COMMITTEE EXPENDITURE AND REVENUE

The committee was funded from the appropriation made to the Legislative Assembly. The committee expended \$216,303.01 for the 2010–11 financial year.

Committee expenditure for 2010–11

Item	\$
Employee expenses	207,228.82
Travel	32.80
Printing	4,182.00
Advertising	962.40
Telephone	1,374.48
Other costs	2,522.51
EXPENDITURE TOTAL	216,303.01

Revenue

The Committee had no revenue for the period.

WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION ACT 1994

During 2010-11, no disclosures were made to the committee in accordance with the *Whistleblowers Protection Act 1994*.

MEMBERSHIP

Mr Evan Moorhead MP, Member for Waterford (Chair)

Mrs Rosemary Menkens MP, Member for Burdekin (Deputy Chair)

Ms Tracy Davis MP, Member for Aspley

Ms Jan Jarratt MP, Member for Whitsunday (until 21 February 2011)

Mrs Betty Kiernan MP, Member for Mt Isa

Mr Shane Knuth MP, Member for Dalrymple

Mr Jason O'Brien MP, Member for Cook

SECRETARIAT

Ms Lyndel Bates, Research Director (until 20 May 2011)

Ms Rachelle Stacey, A/Research Director (from 23 May 2011)

Mr Alistair MacLennan, A/Principal Research Officer (until 6 August 2010)

Ms Margaret Telford, Principal Research Officer (from 10 August 2010)

Ms Liz Sbeghen, Principal Research Officer (from 13 August 2010)

Ms Anne Fidler, Acting Executive Assistant



ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT

2010 – 2011

INTRODUCTION

The Environment and Resources Committee was established by resolution of the Legislative Assembly on 23 April 2009. The committee was dissolved on 16 June 2011.

The role of the committee was to monitor and report on environmental protection, climate change, land management, water security and energy.

During the year, the committee completed an inquiry into growing Queensland's renewable energy electricity sector and commenced an inquiry into the environmental impacts of conventional funerals.

INQUIRY INTO GROWING QUEENSLAND'S RENEWABLE ENERGY ELECTRICITY SECTOR

On 21 May 2010, the committee commenced an inquiry into the state's renewable energy electricity sector. This inquiry investigated the opportunities and challenges for the Queensland Government associated with increasing the proportion of electricity generated from renewable energy sources in Queensland. Specifically, the committee considered:

- the value for money from the Queensland Government's investments in renewable energy projects for electricity generation
- whether the Queensland Government should adopt a target for increasing the proportion of the state's electricity generated from renewable energy sources, and if so, what form the target should take
- actions the Queensland Government should take to encourage investment by government-owned energy companies and the private sector in producing more electricity from renewable energy sources.

The committee tabled its report on this inquiry, *Report No. 4: Growing Queensland Renewable Energy Electricity Sector*, on 10 May 2011. The report made fourteen recommendations to Government including:

- continuing to pursue energy efficiency targets and efforts to minimise energy wastage as a

priority to achieve greenhouse gas abatement targets

- increasing the prescribed percentage for the proportion of electricity to be sourced from gas-fired generation under the Queensland Gas Scheme to 20 per cent by 2020
- setting an aspirational Queensland renewable energy target of 20 per cent of the state's electricity needs to be sourced from renewable energy sources by 2020
- a further target of replacing diesel generators with renewable energy systems as the primary source of electricity in all of the state's remote Indigenous communities by 2020
- examining the benefits of allowing open tendering by renewable energy generators for long-term electricity supply contracts for government departments, buildings and other infrastructure
- providing the Parliament with a statement of the objectives, outcomes and value for money achieved from the government's renewable energy projects and initiatives.

INQUIRY INTO THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF CONVENTIONAL FUNERALS

In March 2011, the committee resolved to examine and report on the environmental impacts, including land management impacts, of conventional funeral practices. As part of the inquiry, the committee considered the role that alternative practices could play to achieve better environmental outcomes and reduce pressure on cemetery land in heavily urbanised areas. These unconventional practices included:

- the use of coffins and caskets made from materials other than solid or manufactured wood
- burials or cremations without the use of coffins or caskets
- natural or bush burials.

On 10 June 2011, the committee released an issues paper that set out the main issues to be considered for the inquiry. These issues included:

- the impacts of Queensland's growing and ageing population on demand for funerary services, particularly in South East Queensland

- options to a more sustainable approach to cemetery lands
- the environmental impacts of embalming and heavy metal contamination
- options for reducing the wastage of resources
- addressing misleading environmental claims (a practice known as 'green washing') about funerary products and services with better information.

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1: ENERGY EFFICIENCY–QUEENSLAND’S FIRST ENERGY RESOURCE.

The committee’s first inquiry investigated the economic and environmental potential provided by energy efficiency improvements for households, communities, industry and government. In undertaking this inquiry, the committee considered:

- the economic and environmental costs and benefits arising from energy efficiency improvements;
- potential barriers and impediments to improved energy efficiency;
- potential policy options for energy efficiency improvements, with an emphasis on initiatives that are cost effective for individual producers and consumers; and
- the role of the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme and other Commonwealth Government initiatives in encouraging energy efficiency.

In its report, *Energy Efficiency: Queensland’s First Energy Resource*, tabled on 25 February 2010, the committee made 18 recommendations for the Government to implement. They included:

- acknowledging that energy efficiency is Queensland’s first energy resource
- funding energy efficiency improvements ahead of other energy projects to meet Queensland’s future energy needs, including renewable energy
- subjecting all major energy efficiency programs and initiatives to external review to ensure they are working optimally, and reporting the findings of those reviews to Parliament
- providing support and assistance for low-income households to implement energy efficiency improvements
- examining the potential benefits for Queensland of utilising distributed generation
- considering a white certificate scheme for Queensland that is consistent with schemes operating in other states, although reflecting Queensland conditions, and canvassing the

option of a national scheme through the Ministerial Council on Energy.

The Government tabled its response to the report on 25 August 2010. The response supported seven recommendations, gave in-principle support to a further ten, and rejected one recommendation. The response can be downloaded from the Parliament’s website at <http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/documents/committees/ERC/2009/EnergyEfficiency/gr-25Aug2010-final.pdf>

MEETING ATTENDANCE

The below table shows the record of meeting attendance of committee members during 2010-11.

Date	Sullivan	Attwood	Dowling	Finn ³	Foley	Ryan	Seene
06 Jul 2010	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
21 Jul 2010	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
26 Jul 2010	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗
03 Aug 2010	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
17 Aug 2010	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
31 Aug 2010	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
14 Sept 2010	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
17 Sept 2010	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
05 Oct 2010	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
26 Oct 2010	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
23 Nov 2010	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
15 Feb 2011	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
08 Mar 2011	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
22 Mar 2011	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✗

³ On 16 February 2011 the House discharged the Member for Yeerongpilly, Mr Simon Finn MP, from the committee and appointed the Member for Mulgrave, Mr Curtis Pitt MP. Mr Pitt was appointed Minister for Disability Services, Mental Health and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships on 21 February 2011, and was discharged from the committee on 8 March 2011.

Date	Sullivan	Attwood	Dowling	Finn ³	Foley	Ryan	Seeney
05 Apr 2011	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✗
05 May 2011	✓	✗	✓		✓	✓	✗
10 May 2011	✓	✗	✓		✓	✓	✗
19 May 2011	✓	✓	✗		✓	✓	✗
10 June 2011	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓

Principal Research Officer: Ms Rachelle Stacey
and Ms Grace Field
Executive Assistant: Ms Carolyn Heffernan

COMMITTEE EXPENDITURE AND REVENUE

The committee's expenditure for the 2010-11 year was \$203,562.42. The below table provides a breakdown.

Committee expenditure for 2010-11

Item	\$
Employee expenses	190,980.38
Travel expenses	5,580.63
Printing	795.00
Business advertising	1,667.86
Communications	1,677.72
Hospitality	2,860.83
EXPENDITURE TOTAL	\$203,562.42

WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION ACT 1994

During 2010-11, no disclosures were made to the committee in accordance with the *Whistleblowers Protection Act 1994*.

MEMBERSHIP

Mrs Carryn Sullivan MP, Member for Pumicestone (Chair)

Mr Jeff Seeney MP, Member for Callide (Deputy Chair)

Mrs Julie Attwood MP, Member for Mount Ommaney

Mr Peter Dowling MP, Member for Redlands

Mr Chris Foley MP, Member for Maryborough

Mr Mark Ryan MP, Member for Morayfield

SECRETARIAT

Research Director: Mr Rob Hansen



LAW, JUSTICE AND SAFETY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2010 – 2011

INTRODUCTION

The Law, Justice and Safety Committee (the committee) was established by the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*.⁴ The committee was dissolved on 16 June 2011.

The committee had oversight roles in relation to the Office of the Information Commissioner⁵, the Office of the Ombudsman⁶, senior officers of the Electoral Commission of Queensland⁷, and the Criminal Organisation Public Interest Monitor⁸.

The committee was also required to consider any issue referred to it by the Legislative Assembly or under another Act, whether or not the issue was within the committee's areas of responsibility.⁹

This report outlines the activities of the committee from 1 July 2010 to 16 June 2011.

COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES - LAW REFORM

Sections 85 to 89 of the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001* provided that the committee had these areas of responsibility:

- administrative review reform
- constitutional reform
- electoral reform
- legal reform
- an area regarding law, justice or safety referred to the committee by the Legislative Assembly.

Administrative review reform includes consideration of legislation about access to information, administrative decisions, anti-discrimination and equal opportunity employment.

Constitutional reform includes consideration of any bill for an Act that expressly or impliedly repeals any law relevant to Queensland's Constitution.

Electoral reform includes monitoring the conduct of elections under the *Electoral Act 1992* and the capacity of the Queensland Electoral Commission to conduct elections.

Legal reform includes recognition of Aboriginal tradition and Island custom under Queensland law and proposed national scheme legislation referred to the committee by the Legislative Assembly.

THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN

Under the *Ombudsman Act 2001*, the committee was required to:

- monitor and review the Ombudsman's performance of the functions conferred by that Act
- report to the Legislative Assembly on any matter regarding the Ombudsman that the committee considers should be drawn to the Assembly's attention
- examine each annual report tabled in the Legislative Assembly under that Act, and, if appropriate, comment on any aspect of the report
- report to the Legislative Assembly on any changes to the functions, structures and procedures of the Office of the Ombudsman the committee considers desirable for the more effective operation of that Act.

In addition, the committee was to be consulted on the selection process for and the appointment of a person as Ombudsman¹⁰ and was to be consulted by the Treasurer in developing the proposed budget of the Office of the Ombudsman.¹¹ The committee also had a role in relation to the strategic reviews of the Office of the Ombudsman.¹² The last strategic review was conducted in 2006.

OFFICE OF THE INFORMATION COMMISSIONER

The *Right to Information Act 2009* and the *Information Privacy Act 2009* governed the committee's functions regarding the Information Commissioner, the Right to Information Commissioner and the Privacy Commissioner.

⁴ *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*, section 80

⁵ See *Right to Information Act 2009*, *Information Privacy Act 2009*

⁶ See *Ombudsman Act 2001*

⁷ See *Electoral Act 1992*

⁸ See *Criminal Organisation Act 2009*

⁹ *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*, section 84 (2)

¹⁰ *Ombudsman Act 2001*, section 59

¹¹ *Ombudsman Act 2001*, section 88

¹² *Ombudsman Act 2001*, section 83

The committee was responsible for:

- monitoring and reviewing the performance of the Commissioner's functions under the *Right to Information Act 2009*
- reporting on any matter concerning the Commissioner, and the performance of his or her functions that the committee considers should be drawn to the Parliament's attention
- deciding, in consultation with the Commissioner, on the statistical information to be provided to the Commissioner by agencies and Ministers for the Commissioner to review and report on agencies' compliance with the Act and the *Information Privacy Act 2009*
- examining the annual reports tabled under the Act and, if appropriate, comment and making recommendations on any aspect of such a report
- reporting to the Parliament on any changes to the functions, structures and procedures of the Office of the Information Commissioner that the committee considers desirable for the more effective operation of the Act.¹³

In addition to these responsibilities the committee was to be consulted on the selection process for, and the appointment of, the Information Commissioner, the Right to Information Commissioner and the Privacy Commissioner.¹⁴

As with the Ombudsman, the committee also had a role in strategic reviews of the Office of the Information Commissioner,¹⁵ with the last strategic review being conducted in 2006.

CRIMINAL ORGANISATION PUBLIC INTEREST MONITOR (COPIM)

Under the *Criminal Organisation Act 2009*, the committee is required to:

- monitor and review the performance of the COPIM's functions conferred by that Act;
- report to the Legislative Assembly on any matter regarding the COPIM that the committee considers should be drawn to the Assembly's attention; and
- examine each annual report tabled in the Legislative Assembly under that Act.¹⁶

In addition to these responsibilities the committee is consulted on the selection process for, and the

appointment of, the Criminal Organisation Public Interest Monitor.¹⁷

ELECTORAL COMMISSION OF QUEENSLAND

Under the *Electoral Act 1992*, the committee is to be consulted on the selection process for, and the appointment of the:

- Chairperson or nonjudicial appointee¹⁸; or
- Senior electoral officer.¹⁹

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report No. 78: A new Local Government Electoral Act: Review of the local government electoral systems (excluding BCC)

On 25 March 2010, the committee received a referral from the Legislative Assembly to undertake a review of the local government electoral system excluding the Brisbane City Council.²⁰

The committee report, tabled on 29 November 2010, contained 33 recommendations for reform of the local government electoral system, with a large number of recommendations for harmonisation between state and federal electoral acts.

Report No. 79: Meeting with the Information Commissioner, 18 February 2011

The committee met with the Information Commissioner and members of her staff on 18 February 2011 to discuss the performance of her Office and its responsibilities under the *Right to Information Act 2009* and the *Information Privacy Act 2009*.

The meeting provided an opportunity for the committee to consider performance information for the 2009-2010 financial year.

Report No. 80: Meeting with the Ombudsman, 18 February 2011

The committee met with the Ombudsman and members of his staff on 18 February 2011 to discuss the performance of his Office and its responsibilities under the *Ombudsman Act 2001*.

¹³ *Right to Information Act 2009*, section 189

¹⁴ *Right to Information Act 2009*, section 135(1)(b)

¹⁵ *Right to Information Act 2009*, sections 187 and 188 – the report of the strategic reviewer is referred to the Committee.

¹⁶ *Criminal Organisation Act 2009*, section 91

¹⁷ *Criminal Organisation Act 2009*, section 85 (b)

¹⁸ *Electoral Act 1992*, part 2, section 7(b)

¹⁹ *Electoral Act 1992*, part 2, section 23 (b)(ii)

²⁰ Queensland Legislative Assembly, *Transcript of Proceedings* (Hansard), 25 March 2010, p.1143

The meeting provided an opportunity for the committee to consider performance information for the 2009-2010 financial year.

MINISTERIAL RESPONSES TO COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Section 107 of the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001* requires that, where a committee makes a recommendation that the Government or a Minister take (or not take) action about an issue, the responsible Minister must provide the Legislative Assembly with a response.

The ministerial response to the committee's Report No. 78: A new Local Government Electoral Act: Review of the local government electoral systems (excluding BCC) was tabled on 28 February 2011. The government supported 21 of the 33 recommendations, including that:

- all local government elections be conducted by the Electoral Commission of Queensland (ECQ)
- the ECQ investigate and trial new technologies in the conduct of elections
- the timeframe for by-elections be extended from 10 to 12 weeks
- the nomination deposit to \$250 to be increased to align it with the *Electoral Act 1992*
- criteria or reasons for pre-polling and absent voting within a local government area be removed.

On 16 June 2001, the government introduced the Local Government Electoral Bill 2011 into the Legislative Assembly.

WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION ACT 1994

During 2010-11, no disclosures were made to the committee in accordance with the *Whistleblowers Protection Act 1994*.

MEETING ATTENDANCE 2010 - 2011

	MS BARBARA STONE	MR ANDREW CRIPPS	MR JARROD BLEUIE	MR STEVE KILBURN	MR RAY STEVENS	MR MURRAY WATT	HON. DEAN WELLS
03/08/10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
20/08/10	✓	*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
31/08/10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
03/09/10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	*
03/09/10	✓	✓	✓	✓	*	*	✓
14/09/10	✓	*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
05/10/10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
11/10/10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
26/10/10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
29/10/10	✓	✓	✓	*	✓	✓	*
16/11/10	✓	*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
23/11/10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
23/11/10	✓	✓	✓	✓	*	✓	✓
24/11/10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	*
24/11/10	✓	✓	*	✓	✓	✓	✓
14/12/10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	*
15/02/11	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
08/03/11	✓	✓	*	✓	✓	✓	✓
22/03/11	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
05/04/11	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
21/04/11	✓	✓	*	✓	✓	✓	✓
12/05/11	✓	✓	*	✓	✓	✓	✓

COMMITTEE EXPENDITURE AND REVENUE

Expenditure

Item	\$
Employee related expenses ²¹	220,316.28
Business travel expenses	35,505.84
Professional and commercial services ²²	5,672.62
Telecommunication expenses	1,140.56
Other costs	2,889.84
EXPENDITURE TOTAL	\$265,525.14

Revenue

The committee had no revenue for the period.

²¹ Includes salaries, allowances, taxes, superannuation and recruitment expenses.

²² Includes contractors, printing and advertising.

MEMBERSHIP

Ms BARBARA STONE MP - CHAIR Member for Springwood
MR ANDREW CRIPPS MP - DEPUTY CHAIR Member for Hinchinbrook
MR JARROD BLEIJIE MP Member for Kawana
MR STEVE KILBURN MP Member for Chatsworth
MR RAY STEVENS MP Member for Mermaid Beach
MR MURRAY WATT MP Member for Everton
HON. DEAN WELLS MP Member for Murrumba

SECRETARIAT

During the reporting year, the committee was supported by Stephen Finnimore and Renee Easten in the position of Research Director, Amanda Honeyman and Simone Gregory as Principal Research Officer, and Gail Easton as Executive Assistant.



PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2010 – 2011

INTRODUCTION

The Public Accounts and Public Works Committee was a statutory committee of the Queensland Parliament established under the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*. The committee ceased to exist on 16 June 2011.

This report summarises the work of the committee in the 2010-2011 financial year.

The committee's legislated role was:

- the assessment of the integrity, economy, efficiency and effectiveness of government financial management by:
 - examining government financial documents and
 - considering the annual and other reports of the Auditor-General;
- works (public works) undertaken by an entity that is a constructing authority for the works if the committee decides to consider the works; and
- any major GOC works if the committee decides to consider the works.²³

The term 'government financial documents' includes –

- documents tabled in the Assembly under the *Financial Accountability Act 2009*²⁴, for example annual reports of departments and statutory bodies
- annual financial statements and annual reports of Government Owned Corporations
- a document that would be a government financial document if it had been tabled in the Assembly as required by law.

In deciding whether to consider public works, the committee could have regard to:

- (a) *the stated purpose of the works and the apparent suitability of the works for the purpose; and*
- (b) *the necessity for, and the advisability of, the works; and*
- (c) *value for money achieved, or likely to be achieved, by the works; and*
- (d) *revenue produced by, and recurrent costs of, the works or estimates of revenue and costs for the works; and*
- (e) *the present and prospective public value of the works, including, for example, consideration of the impact of the works on the community, economy and environment; and*
- (f) *procurement methods for the works; and*
- (g) *the balance of public and private sector involvement in the works; and*
- (h) *the performance of –*
 - (i) *the constructing authority for the works; and*
 - (ii) *the consultants and contractors for the works;**with particular regard to the time taken for finishing the works and the cost and quality of the works; and*
- (i) *the actual suitability of the works in meeting the needs and in achieving the stated purpose of the works.*²⁵

An entity is a constructing authority for works if the entity is the State or a department. An entity is also a constructing authority for works if:

- the entity is established under an Act, or under State or local government authorisation, for a public, State or local government purpose; and

²³ *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001* (Qld) s 95

²⁴ From 1 July 2009 the *Financial Administration and Audit Act 1977* has been replaced by the *Financial Accountability Act*, however for the period this report covers the *Financial Administration and Audit Act* was the applicable legislation.

²⁵ *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001* (Qld) s 95

- the works are funded from the consolidated fund or the proceeds of a financial arrangement within the meaning of the *Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements Act 1982*.

A GOC is a constructing authority for works if the works are undertaken specifically or substantially for a community service obligation of the GOC or for major GOC works referred to the committee by the Assembly. An entity (a commercial entity) is a constructing authority for works if, under an agreement for the works:

- (a) the State or another entity representing the State –
 - (i) has, or will or may have, a financial liability or interest; or
 - (ii) has granted, or will or may grant land, or an interest in land or another right, privilege, monopoly, concession, franchise or interest; or
 - (iii) has contributed, or will or may contribute, resources of any kind; and
- (b) the works have become, or will or may become, the absolute property of the State or another entity representing the State.

Major GOC works means works (other than public works) undertaken as part of a major infrastructure investment outlined in a GOC's statement of corporate intent.

The committee's role was to exercise parliamentary scrutiny over the government's management of the public purse including the state's capital works projects.

The committee considered all reports of the Auditor-General. In reviewing the reports the committee invited the Auditor-General to provide briefings to highlight the key findings and issues. These briefings enabled the committee to question the Auditor-General and provide the members with a better appreciation of the significance of issues raised.

The committee assessed issues together with agency responses and if considered beneficial to the public interest, examined the matter further. This examination may take the form of written responses, briefings/meetings or public hearings.

The committee also inquired into and reported to Parliament on the state's capital works projects. A committee inquiry could occur at any stage from planning to post completion and

include works by government departments and major works by government owned corporations. The committee may decide to conduct a particular inquiry or the parliament may refer specific works for investigation.

The committee tried to review capital works projects from as wide a selection of departments and other constructing authorities as was practicable, in a variety of locations throughout Queensland, of differing cost and scale and at various stages of implementation.

The focus of all government capital works projects must be on maximising the benefits to the community. The committee was determined to ensure Queensland gets best value for money from the development of capital assets by both public and private agencies, and that the agencies manage the assets to provide the best possible outcomes for Queenslanders.

Auditor-General and Queensland Audit Office

The *Auditor-General Act* also gave the committee specific statutory responsibilities in relation to the Auditor-General and the Queensland Audit Office (QAO).

Audit office budget

The Treasurer was to consult with the committee in developing the annual budget of the audit office²⁶. In February 2011 the Treasurer wrote to the committee outlining the 2011-12 budget timetable and process for QAO and advising of QAO's budget requests.

The committee consulted with the Auditor-General regarding any anticipated funding issues. He advised the committee of the likely needs for 2011-12.

In April 2011, the Treasurer wrote to the Committee advising that a 3.9% increase in the fee charge rate for financial and compliance audits conducted by QAO from 1 October 2011 had been approved. No additional funding was approved to cover additional costs associated with proposed changes to the Auditor-General's mandate.

The committee consulted further with the Auditor-General. He considered that his office would have sufficient funding to meet the costs associated with these activities for the coming financial year.

The committee wrote to the Treasurer advising of the Auditor-General's view that funding is sufficient however expressing its expectation

²⁶ *Auditor-General Act 2009*, s21

that additional funding will be provided in the next financial year to cover these activities.

In June 2011, the Treasurer wrote again to the committee confirming that any additional resource requirements would be considered once QAO was in a position to quantify these requirements.

Strategic reviews

Strategic reviews of the audit office must be conducted every five years by appropriately qualified persons appointed by the Governor in Council. The Premier is required to consult with the committee on the appointment and the terms of reference.²⁷

Such reviews include an examination of the Auditor-General's functions and the performance of those functions to assess whether they are being performed economically, effectively and efficiently. Under section 70(7) of the Auditor-General Act the report is referred to the committee.

The Premier tabled the latest Strategic Review Report on 10 March 2010. The report contained 57 conclusions and 44 recommendations.

The committee resolved to review the 'Report of the 2010 Strategic Review of the Queensland Audit Office' to consider the recommendations made and comment on other findings where appropriate.

The committee considered the conclusions and recommendations relating to the audit mandate separately. It received a written submission from the Auditor-General addressing the individual conclusions and recommendations made in the strategic review report.

The committee tabled *Report No 7- Inquiry to formally review the 'Report of the 2010 Strategic Review of the Queensland Audit Office' to consider the recommendations made and comment on other findings where appropriate* on 9 March 2011.

The committee made nine recommendations. The government response, supporting all nine recommendations, was tabled on 9 June 2011. Reporting of sensitive information

Reporting of sensitive information

If the Auditor-General considers that disclosure of a matter in a report to Parliament would be against the public interest, the matter must be

reported to the committee instead²⁸. The Auditor-General did not report any matters of this nature to the committee during the reporting period.

Audit Office strategic plan

The *Financial and Performance Management Standard 2009* (s9) requires that accountable officers²⁹ develop a strategic plan and in developing the plans they must comply with the document called 'Agency planning requirements' prepared by the Department of Premier and Cabinet.³⁰

That document requires that the Auditor-General consult with the Treasurer and the committee about the resource implications of strategic plans for the audit office.³¹

Consultation between QAO and the committee occurred in March 2011 in relation to the QAO's 2010-2014 Strategic Plan. The Auditor-General advised the committee that given the high level nature of the strategic plan, it is not dependent on the provision of additional funding or resources.

Review of audit reports

Nine audit reports had been tabled by the Auditor-General prior to the committee's dissolution on 16 June 2011. The Auditor-General met with the committee to brief the members on key aspects of the reports.

In reviewing the reports, the committee assessed the nature of the findings and issues in terms of their impact on the integrity, economy, efficiency and effectiveness of government financial management together with the explanations and undertakings advanced by management of the audited agencies.

Where necessary, the committee sought further information from the relevant agency. Some issues may require separate inquiry with specific terms of reference. Details of the committee's reviews are reported in the sections titled 'Committee Reports' and 'Committee Inquiries'.

²⁸ Auditor-General Act 2009, s 66 (previously *Financial Administration and Audit Act 1977*, s104)

²⁹ The Auditor-General is the accountable officer for QAO under the *Public Service Act 2008*.

³⁰ *Financial and Performance Management Standard 2009*, s 9

³¹ Queensland Government, *Agency Planning Requirements*, May 2009: 11-12

²⁷ Auditor-General Act 2009, ss 68, 69 and 70

Meetings with the Auditor-General

The Committee met with the Auditor-General on the following dates:

Date	Purpose
02.08.10	PMS audits; Financial & Compliance audits to 30 June 2010; Auditor-General's Report Nos 2 to 8; QAO 150 years celebrations
22.11.10	QAO's annual report; Auditor-General's Report Nos 9 to 13

Committee Reports and Inquiries

Report No 5 – Inquiry into an evaluation of the effectiveness of the performance management systems (PMS) audit mandate in terms of the Parliament's previously expressed position

In May 2008, the Public Accounts Committee (52nd Parliament) resolved to conduct an inquiry into an evaluation of the effectiveness of the performance management systems (PMS) audit mandate in terms of the Parliament's previously expressed position.

The committee initiated this inquiry as a result of its examination of the Report of the Strategic Review of the Queensland Audit Office. The reviewers' recommendation that the Public Accounts Committee evaluate the value of PMS audits at the end of a three year period and report on the effectiveness of the PMS audit mandate in terms of Parliament's previously expressed position was supported by the committee. [Refer to Public Accounts Committee Report No 69.]

The issues considered included:

- What is the role of the PMS audit mandate? Does it fulfil its function in the overall accountability process for the Parliament? What improvements has the mandate brought to the accountability systems?
- Is the concept of PMS auditing understood by both auditor and auditee?
- Is the PMS audit mandate being used effectively by QAO?
- How does QAO assess if individual PMS audits have been effective?
- How could the effectiveness of the PMS audit mandate be improved?

The committee received 21 submissions addressing the terms of reference. The committee also sought additional information from the Department of Premier and Cabinet and from some agencies who provided submissions.

The committee held a public hearing in September 2009. Witnesses included the Auditor-General and senior officers from Queensland Treasury, Department of Premier and Cabinet, Department of Infrastructure and Planning, Department of Transport and Main Roads and Queensland Health.

Completion of this inquiry was complicated by the tabling of the latest Strategic Review report in March 2010. The Strategic Reviewers made a number of recommendations addressing specific issues that were being considered by the committee as part of its inquiry.

The committee tabled *Report 5 – Inquiry into an Evaluation of the Effectiveness of the Performance Management Systems (PMS) audit mandate* on 2 September 2010.

Whilst this inquiry was an examination of the Auditor-General's performance management systems audit mandate, it became clear early in the inquiry that there was a strong undercurrent of opinion that the Auditor-General's mandate should be expanded to encompass performance auditing. The committee heard strong evidence to support this suggestion.

The committee was ever mindful in its deliberations of the importance of the Auditor-General's independence as this is an essential facet of the Westminster system of accountability. The committee considered that an extension of the Auditor-General mandate could be achieved without affecting that independence.

The committee made six recommendations to government. In a ministerial response tabled on 1 December 2010, the government supported all recommendations.

Report No 6 – Brisbane Supreme and District Court Complex Inquiry

The Public Works Committee launched an inquiry into the Brisbane Supreme and District Court Complex project in November 2008.

The committee wrote to various interested parties and organisations providing an inquiry information paper and inviting them to make a

submission by 30 January 2009. The committee received four submissions.

On 13 February 2009, the committee undertook a site inspection of the existing Supreme and District Courts and the new courts complex site. The committee held a public hearing the same day. The committee revisited the site in October 2009, clarifying a number of outstanding issues. Construction is now well underway and the project budgets finalised.

The committee tabled *Report 6 – Brisbane Supreme Court and District Court Complex* on 25 November 2010.

The committee was satisfied that the project is necessary, will be suitable for its purposes and will meet functional, technical and environmental requirements. The committee was also satisfied with the procurement method and process and with the balance of public and private sector involvement in the work.

Whilst the committee agreed that the detailed budget information is currently commercial-in-confidence, it believed that in order to satisfy accountability obligations, this information should be made available to the public at the completion of the project. To this end, the committee recommended that the upon completion of the Brisbane Supreme Court and District Court building, the Department of Justice and Attorney-General table in the Parliament a detailed schedule providing actual and budgeted costs for the BSCDC project.

The government response was tabled on 26 February 2011. The government supported the recommendation and advised that it will ensure that it will ensure that a schedule outlining budgeted and actual project costs will be tabled as soon as possible following completion of the building.

Report No 9 – William McCormack Place – Stage 2 project

The Public Works Committee launched an inquiry into the \$79.5 million McCormack Place (Stage 2) project in May 2008.

In July 2008, the committee wrote to various interested parties and organisations providing an inquiry information paper and inviting them to make a submission by 26 September 2008. The committee received six submissions in response. The committee inspected the building

and held a public hearing in Cairns on Friday 31 October 2008.

The \$79.5million William McCormack Place Stage 2 building was constructed on a site located to the rear of the William McCormack Place Stage 1 building on the corner of Sheridan and Hartley Streets, Cairns. The project commenced in July 2007 and the building was officially opened by the former Minister for Public Works and Information and Communication Technology in November 2010. The construction of this building allows for the provision of a single point of contact to cater for a range of government services.

The building has achieved a 6 Star Green Star – Office Design v2 rating from the Green Building Council of Australia. The building has a particular focus on environmental sustainability, water and energy efficiency, accessibility, life-cycle costing and the delivery of government services.

The committee tabled *Report 9 – William McCormack Place – Stage 2 project* on 6 April 2011.

The committee was satisfied that the project is necessary, is suitable for its purposes and meets functional, technical and environmental requirements. The committee was also satisfied with the procurement method and process and with the balance of public and private sector involvement in the work.

The committee made two recommendations:

- that the Department of Public Works table in the Parliament a detailed schedule providing actual and budgeted costs for the WMP2 project.
- that the Department of Public Works review its consultation methods to ensure that adequate public consultation is undertaken prior to the commencement of future projects.

The government tabled its response on 6 July 2011 and supported the committee's recommendations.

Committee Reports

Report No 8 – Review of Auditor-General's Reports – January to December 2010

One of the functions of the committee was to consider the annual and other reports of the Auditor-General. The committee tabled *Report No 8 – Review of Auditor-General's Reports – January to December 2010* on 23 March 2011. The report details the findings of the committee's review of the Auditor-General's reports tabled during 2010.

The Auditor-General tabled 13 Auditor-General's Reports and QAO's Annual Report during 2010. These reports provided an extensive body of work for the committee to examine covering a range of agencies, issues and topics.

A number of issues highlighted by the Auditor-General in the reports led to further investigations and inquiries by the committee.

The committee made four recommendations to government. The government supported three recommendations.

Report No 10 – Review of Audit Report No 1 for 2008 – Enhancing Accountability through Annual Reporting

The Auditor-General tabled Report No 1 for 2008 on 17 April 2008. The committee resolved to investigate the issues raised in the report further.

The committee tabled a discussion paper in November 2009 with submissions closing at on 19 March 2010. The committee received six submissions.

As part of its inquiry, the committee met with Professor Peter Carroll and Professor Gary O'Donovan, School of Accounting and Corporate Governance, University of Tasmania, to gain an understanding of the issues from an academic perspective.

The committee tabled *Report 10 – Review of Audit Report No 1 for 2008 – Enhancing Accountability through Annual Reporting* on 9 June 2011.

The committee found that the preparation and publication of the annual audited financial statements contained within public sector entities' annual reports are a primary mechanism by which entities meet their

financial accountability obligations. However, the committee found that users sometimes have difficulty interpreting the information contained within annual reports, which can limit their usefulness. The committee identified a number of areas where improvements could be made.

The committee made the following recommendations:

- that Queensland Treasury prepare a readers guide that explains the overall accountability framework including the budget and acquittal and accountability process.
- that Queensland Treasury include a requirement in the Company Financial Reporting policy that the reporting entity status be reviewed on an annual basis.
- that the Department of Premier and Cabinet publish the Annual Report Guidelines not later than the end of April each year.

Report No 11 – Review of Audit Report No 3 for 2008 – Management of Rural Fire Services in Queensland

The Auditor-General tabled Report No 3 for 2008 on 15 May 2008. The committee resolved to investigate the issues raised in the report further.

The committee tabled a discussion paper in November 2009 with submissions closing on 19 March 2010. Due to the floods in western Queensland and a number of requests for extensions of time, the committee resolved to extend this closing date to 19 April 2010.

The committee met with members of the Rural Fire Brigades Association of Qld in March 2010.

The committee received 63 submissions. Individual Committee Members also met with various rural fire brigades in relation to the committee's inquiry. The committee held public hearings in Cairns, Rockhampton, Emerald and Brisbane in August/September 2010. It also held a further *in camera* hearing in Brisbane on 4 October 2010.

The committee tabled *Report No 11 – Review of Audit Report No 3 for 2008 – Management of Rural Fire Services in Queensland* on 10 June 2011.

The committee found that the existing funding structure was the source of great angst to both

QFRS and RFBs and the committee considered that many of the issues stem from the lack of resources available to fund the RFS. The committee considered the current funding structure to be inequitable and recommended a restructure of the funding arrangements.

The committee heard many times of the sometimes competitive nature of the relationship with the urban service. The committee would like to see closer interaction between both urban and rural fire services. Many RFB volunteers felt that they do not have a voice in QFRS. In order to give a voice to the some 34,000 RFB volunteers, the committee recommended the appointment of an Assistant Commissioner, RFS.

The committee made 15 recommendations in its report.

Committee Inquiries

The following inquiries were incomplete at the time of the abolition of the committee. The committee wrote to the Clerk of the Parliament requesting that he pass on the information in relation to the outstanding inquiries to the relevant portfolio committee.

The South East Queensland (Gold Coast) Desalination Project

The Public Works Committee launched an inquiry into the \$1.2 billion South East Queensland (Gold Coast) Desalination project in April 2008.

The project involves the delivery of a seawater reverse osmosis desalination facility on the Gold Coast and associated raw water delivery, saline water release and potable (drinking) water delivery systems. The plant is located at Tugun on a six hectare former landfill site adjacent to the Gold Coast Airport. When fully operational the facility will supply 125 mega-litres a day of pure drinking water to South East Queensland (SEQ).

The committee advertised the inquiry and called for submissions on 19 April 2008. At the same time it also released an inquiry information paper. The committee received six submissions in response.

The committee held a public hearing and inspected the desalination plant on 29 August 2008. On 29 October 2010 the committee met with officers from WaterSecure

and the SEQ Water Grid Manager and inspected the desalination plant.

Review of Auditor-General's Reports – remote council issues

On 3 September 2010 the committee resolved to conduct an inquiry into the Review of Auditor-Generals Reports – Remote Council Issues.

The committee issued a discussion paper in October 2010 seeking submissions with a closing date of 18 February 2011. The committee subsequently resolved to extend the closing date to 31 March 2011.

The committee received 19 submissions in response to its discussion paper.

Australasian Council of Public Accounts Committees (ACPAC)

The Australasian Council of Public Accounts Committees (ACPAC) comprises Public Accounts Committees from other Australian States and Territories, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, New Zealand and the Solomon Islands. The council meets annually to present discussion papers and exchange views on issues applicable to public sector accountability and the function and role of public accounts committees.

The Tasmanian Public Accounts Committee hosted a mid-term meeting of ACPAC in July 2010. The committee was represented at this meeting by Ms Mary-Ann O'Neill MP and Mrs Helen Bogiatzis, Principal Research Officer.

National Conference of Public Works and Environment Committees

The National Conference of Public Works and Environment Committees is usually held annually. The 2010 conference was to be hosted jointly by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works, House of Representatives Standing Committee on Climate Change, Water, Environment and the Arts, Senate Environment, Communications and the Arts Legislation Committee and Senate Environment, Communications and the Arts References Committee in Canberra.

Due to the election timing and committee changes this conference was replaced by a teleconference meeting on 24 March 2011.

Other Committee Activities

During the year the committee undertook the following activities:

- On 15 September 2010 Mr Wendt and Mr Hopper met with the Committee System Review Committee to discuss the committee's submission and other relevant issues regarding that committee's inquiry.
- On 27 September 2010, Mr Wendt, Ms Farmer and Mr Crandon represented the committee at a function held at Parliament House to celebrate 150 years since the appointment of the first Auditor-General.
- On 1 October 2010, Mr Wendt and Ms Farmer represented the committee at a staff function held at QAO's Head Office to celebrate the appointment of the first staff member of the QAO. Mr Wendt delivered a short presentation at this event.

Committee Expenditure

The committee's budget allocation for the 2010 - 2011 financial year was \$289,584. Details of committee expenditure in the reporting period are set out in the following table:

Item	\$
Staff salaries and related expenses	162,866
Employer superannuation contributions	20,657
Salary related taxes and workcover	10,595
Travel expenses	25,501
Advertising, printing and stationery	5,505
Meeting/Hearing expenses	2,878
Telecommunication costs	1,238
Subscriptions and publications	341
EXPENDITURE TOTAL	229,582

WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION ACT 1994

During 2010-11, no disclosures were made to the committee in accordance with the *Whistleblowers Protection Act 1994*.

Meeting Attendance Record

1 July 2010 – 30 June 2011							
Meeting Date	Wendt	Rickuss	Crandon	Farmer	Hopper	O'Neill	Smith
02.08.10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
16.08.10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
23.08.10	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓
24.08.10	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓
25.08.10	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓
30.08.10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
03.09.10	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓
13.09.10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
04.10.10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
25.10.10	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
29.10.10	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓
22.11.10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
14.02.11	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓
07.03.11	✓	x	✓	✓	x	✓	✓
21.03.11	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓
04.04.11	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓
09.05.11	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓
07.06.11	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	x
09.06.11	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓

MEMBERSHIP



Mr Wayne Wendt MP, Chair and Member for Ipswich West (ALP)



Mr Ian Rickuss MP, Deputy Chair and Member for Lockyer (LNP)



Mr Michael Crandon MP, Member for Coomera (LNP)



Ms Dianne Farmer MP, Member for Bulimba (ALP)



Mr Ray Hopper MP, Member for Condamine (LNP)



Ms Mary-Anne O'Neill MP, Member for Kallangur (ALP)



Mrs Christine Smith MP, Member for Burleigh (ALP)

SECRETARIAT

Ms Deborah Jeffrey, Research Director

Mrs Helen Bogiatzis, Principal Research Officer (until 11 May 2011)

Mrs Marilyn Freeman, Executive Assistant



SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2010 – 2011

INTRODUCTION

The Social Development Committee was established by resolution of the Legislative Assembly on 23 April 2009. The committee ceased on 16 June 2011. This report summarises the work of the committee in the 2010-2011 financial year.

The committee had responsibility for monitoring and reporting on issues in the policy areas of health, education and training, social welfare services, community development, housing, child safety, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander policy.

The committee was also responsible for monitoring and reporting on the:

- Family Responsibilities Commission
- Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian
- Health Quality and Complaints Commission.

INQUIRY INTO ADDRESSING CANNABIS-RELATED HARM IN QUEENSLAND

On 20 May 2009 the committee received a reference from the House to investigate and report on a research paper published by Drug Free Australia Ltd titled *Cannabis: suicide, schizophrenia and other ill-effects*.

In undertaking this inquiry, the committee considered the risks associated with cannabis use, particularly for young people, and strategies to reduce the level of cannabis use in Queensland.

On 25 November 2010 the committee tabled *Report 10: Inquiry into addressing cannabis-related harm in Queensland*. On 25 February 2011 the Ministerial response to the committee's report was tabled. Of the committee's 28 recommendations, 19 were supported, 7 were supported in principle, and 2 were supported in part.

OVERSIGHT OF COMMISSIONS

With respect to each of the Family Responsibilities Commission, the Commission

for Children and Young People and Child Guardian, and the Health Quality and Complaints Commission, the committee had the following functions:

- to monitor and review the performance by the commissioner of the commissioner's functions
- to report to the Legislative Assembly on any matter concerning the commissioner, the commissioner's functions or the performance of the commissioner's functions that the committee considers should be drawn to the Legislative Assembly's attention
- to examine the annual report tabled in the Legislative Assembly and, if appropriate, to comment on any aspect of the report
- to report to the Legislative Assembly any changes to the functions, structures and procedures of the commission that the committee considers desirable for the more effective operation of the commission or the Act which establishes it.

The committee established the following process to allow it to fulfil its obligations to monitor and report on the three commissions:

- hold two general meetings with the commissions each year
- time the meetings so that one follows the tabling of the annual reports and the other precedes the estimates process
- ask written questions on notice and require written answers to those questions before the meetings
- meet with the commissions and ask follow up questions without notice
- report to Parliament on the proceedings and include in the report the written questions on notice, answers to those questions and a transcript of the meeting.

The committee held its first meeting of the financial year with each of the Commissioners on 12 November 2010.

The committee tabled a report for each of the meetings on 17 February 2011.

COMMITTEE BUDGET

The committee received a budget of \$244,679.00 for the 2010-11 financial year.

The following outlines the committee's expenses during 2010-11. This expenditure was \$36,207 under budget.

Item	\$
Employee costs	197,839
Business Travel	2,486
Printing & Production	3,933
Advertising	766
Communications	1,705
Meeting expenses	1,131
Miscellaneous	611
EXPENDITURE TOTAL	208,472

WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION ACT 1994

During 2010-11, no disclosures were made to the committee in accordance with the *Whistleblowers Protection Act 1994*.

MEETING ATTENDANCE

The committee held 15 meetings during the reporting period. The attendance of members at those meetings is set out below.

Meeting Dates	Lindy Nelson-Carr	Mark McArdle	Ros Bates	Michael Choi	Liz Cunningham	Mandy Johnstone	Desley Scott
3 Aug 2010	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
17 Aug 2010	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
31 Aug 2010	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
14 Sep 2010	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
5 Oct 2010	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
26 Oct 2010	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
12 Nov 2010	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
12 Nov 2010 ^a	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
12 Nov 2010 ^b	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
12 Nov 2010	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
12 Nov 2010 ^c	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
23 Nov 2010	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
15 Feb 2011	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓
8 Mar 2011	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
22 Mar 2011	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Notes:

- a Meeting with the Family Responsibilities Commissioner.
- b Meeting with the Commissioner for Children and Young People and Child Guardian.
- c Meeting with the Health Quality and Complaints Commissioner.

MEMBERSHIP



Ms Lindy Nelson-Carr MP
CHAIR
Member for Mundingburra



Mr Mark McArdle MP
DEPUTY CHAIR
Member for Caloundra



Ms Ros Bates MP
Member for Mudgeeraba



Mr Michael Choi MP
Member for Capalaba



Mrs Liz Cunningham MP
Member for Gladstone



Ms Mandy Johnstone MP
Member for Townsville



Mrs Desley Scott MP
Member for Woodridge

SECRETARIAT

Ms Joanna Fear, Acting Research Director
(until 15 October 2010)

Ms Rachelle Stacey, Acting Research Director
(18 October 2010 - 3 December 2010)

Ms Erin Pasley, Acting Research Director
(6 December 2010 - 1 April 2011)

Dr Kathy Munro, Research Director
(from 4 April 2011)

Ms Erin Pasley, Principal Research Officer

Ms Stephanie Cash, Executive Assistant
(from 10 August 2010)