



Annual Report 2021-22

Report No. 29, 57th Parliament
State Development and Regional Industries Committee
October 2022

State Development and Regional Industries Committee

Chair	Mr Chris Whiting MP, Member for Bancroft
Deputy Chair	Mr Jim McDonald MP, Member for Lockyer
Members	Mr Michael Hart MP, Member for Burleigh
	Mr Robbie Katter MP, Member for Traeger
	Mr Jim Madden MP, Member for Ipswich West
	Mr Tom Smith MP, Member for Bundaberg

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All web address references are current at the time of publication.

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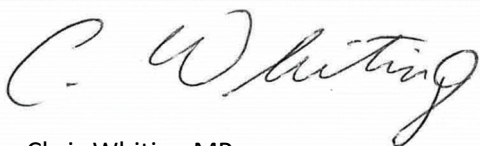
Chair's Foreword

In accordance with section 108 of the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001, I table the Annual Report of the State Development and Regional Industries Committee.

This report details the activities of the committee from 1 July 2021 to June 2022 and includes a summary of issues considered by the committee, a brief description of Ministerial responses to committee recommendations, a statement of revenue and spending for the year, and a list of committee meetings and names of members attending or absent from each meeting.

On behalf of the committee, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those individuals and organisations who contributed to the work of the committee during the reporting period.

I also thank my fellow committee members for their ongoing dedication and collaborative approach and the committee's secretariat and parliamentary staff for their professional support throughout the year.



Chris Whiting MP

Chair

1 State Development and Regional Industries Committee

The State Development and Regional Industries Committee (committee) is a portfolio committee of the Legislative Assembly which commenced on 26 November 2020 under the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001* and the Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Assembly.¹

The committee's primary areas of responsibility are:

- State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning
- Agricultural Industry Development, Fisheries and Rural Communities
- Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water.

Section 93(1) of the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001* provides that the committee is responsible for examining each Bill and item of subordinate legislation in its portfolio areas to consider:

- the policy to be given effect by the legislation
- the application of fundamental legislative principles
- matters arising under the Human Rights Act 2019, and
- for subordinate legislation – its lawfulness.²

The committee is also responsible for the scrutiny of public accounts and public works, and may initiate an inquiry into any other matter it considers appropriate within its portfolio areas. The committee must also consider referrals from the Legislative Assembly.³

This committee has oversight responsibility for the Independent Assessor, as established under Schedule 6, and in accordance with Standing Order 194A of the Standing Rules and Orders of the Queensland Legislative Assembly.

State Development and Regional Industries Committee



Front row (L-R) Mr Michael Hart MP, Mr Chris Whiting MP (Chair), Mr Robbie Katter MP
Back row (L-R) Mr Jim Madden MP, Mr Tom Smith MP, Mr Jim McDonald MP (Deputy Chair)

¹ *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*, s 88; and Standing Order 194.

² *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*, s 93; and *Human Rights Act 2019*, ss 39, 40, 41 and 57.

³ *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*, ss 94 and 92.

2 Inquiries and reports

2.1 Bills

The committee conducted inquiries relating to 6 Bills during the reporting period. Copies of the committee's reports and supporting inquiry documents are available on the committee's webpage.⁴

2.1.1 Consideration of 2021-22 Budget Estimates (Report No. 11)

The estimates process aids the Parliament in its scrutiny of the Government's proposed expenditure. On 18 June 2021, the budget estimates for the committee's areas of responsibility were referred to the committee for examination and report.

The committee conducted a public hearing on 28 July 2021 asking questions of the Ministers, Directors-General and Chief Executive Officers about the budgets for their portfolio areas, including the:

- Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning
- Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities
- Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water

The committee tabled its report and supporting information on 20 August 2021, recommending that the proposed expenditure, as detailed in the Appropriation Bill 2021 for the committee's areas of responsibility, be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly without amendment.

The Appropriation Bill was passed without amendment on 1 September 2021.

2.1.2 Legislation (COVID-19 Emergency Response—Permanency) Amendment Bill 2021 (Report No. 14)

On 16 September 2021, the Bill was referred to the committee for examination and report by 1 November 2021.

The objective of the Bill was to make permanent certain temporary regulatory measures in the justice portfolio, introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic. Those regulatory measures related to the use of electronic documents, domestic and family violence proceedings, the sale of liquor by restaurants with takeaway meals, and leasing documentation.

The committee considered 26 submissions and received public briefings from the Department of Justice and Attorney-General. The committee conducted a public hearing in Brisbane, hearing from representatives from the legal, health and hospitality sectors.

The committee made 6 recommendations, including that the Bill be passed. The Government accepted 5 of the recommendations, including that the Bill be amended to address the execution of deeds by the Queensland Government.

The Bill was passed, with amendment, on 18 November 2021.

2.1.3 Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021 (Report No. 17)

On 2 December 2021, the Bill was referred to the committee for examination and report by 11 February 2022.

The Bill proposed various amendments to acts within the health and environment portfolios and covered a diverse range of policy areas including: the management of confidential information by the health portfolio, student assistance in the termination of pregnancies, licensing arrangements for

⁴ The committee's webpage is www.parliament.qld.gov.au/SDRIC.

personal appearance services, and more substantial amendments to improve the operation of the state's mental health legislation.

The committee considered 14 submissions, and received written and oral public briefings from officials from Queensland Health, the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning, and the Department of Environment and Science.

The committee conducted a public hearing in Brisbane, hearing from Office of the Information Commissioner, the Queensland Law Society and the Human Rights Commission.

The committee made 5 recommendations, including that the Bill be passed. Other recommendations prompted the Government to provide more information to stakeholders and the Queensland Parliament to ensure the impact of the legislation was fully understood by those affected.

The committee also recommended that Queensland Health investigate enhancing the functionality of The Viewer (a web-based application that collates data from multiple Queensland Health system) to provide patients with greater control over the type of information that can be seen by health providers; and that any changes in functionality be complemented by a comprehensive community engagement program. All recommendations were supported by the Government.

The Bill was passed, with amendment, on 24 February 2022.

2.1.4 Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 (Report No.19)

On 24 February 2022, the Bill was referred to the committee for examination and report by 8 April 2022.

The objective of the Bill was to allow beekeeping on certain national parks to continue until 2044 by amending the *Nature Conservation Act 1992*.

The committee considered 29 submissions, and conducted a public briefing with officials from the Department of Environment and Science. The committee conducted public hearings in Brisbane and Southport, hearing from industry, agriculture and environmental interest groups. A sub-committee inspected apiary sites in the Scenic Rim to learn more about the issues facing the industry.

The committee made 2 recommendations, including that the Bill be passed and that the Department of Environment and Science develop clear and accessible guidelines for beekeeping on sites in national parks within 12 months to ensure risks to the natural environment are appropriately managed. The Government supported the recommendations.

The Bill was still before the Parliament by the end of the reporting period.



Source: Sub-committee apiary site visit, Scenic Rim, 1 April 2022

2.1.5 Food (Labelling of Seafood) Amendment Bill 2021 (Report No. 20)

On 19 November 2021, the Food (Labelling of Seafood) Amendment Bill 2021 was introduced by the Member for Traeger and referred to the committee for examination and report. The committee was required to report by 18 May 2022.

The objective of the Bill was to require mandatory country of origin labelling of seafood sold at dining outlets across Queensland by amending the *Food Act 2006*.

The committee considered 9 submissions, and received a public briefing about the Bill from the Member for Traeger.

The committee conducted public hearings between February and April 2022 with industry and business representatives in Townsville, Cairns, Karumba, Bundaberg and Brisbane. The committee also met with commercial fishers at the Barramundi Discovery Centre, Karumba to learn more about the issues facing the industry.

The committee tabled its report on 13 May 2022, recommending that the Bill not be passed and that the country of origin labelling matter proposed by the Bill be taken up with the Australian Government as the national lead on the national regulations affected by the proposed legislation.

2.1.6 Animal Care and Protection Amendment Bill (Report No. 23)

On 12 May 2022, the Bill was referred to the committee for examination and report by 1 July 2022.

The objective of the Bill was to modernise animal welfare laws to reflect changes in contemporary science and community expectations. It covered a diverse range of policy areas, including: enforcement and regulation of animal welfare, use of animals in scientific research, and prohibition of certain devices including pronged dog collars.

The inquiry attracted considerable community interest and the committee considered almost 1,500 submissions and conducted public hearings in Brisbane, hearing from stakeholders across the agricultural, veterinary, animal welfare and enforcement sectors. The committee also conducted a briefing with the Auditor-General on regulating animal welfare as part of its consideration of the Bill.

The committee tabled its report in on 1 July 2022 and made three recommendations, including that the Bill be passed. The committee also recommended that the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries continue to work with the Australian Government regarding a prohibition on importing certain dog collars; and that the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries continue to implement the Queensland Auditor-General's recommendations on regulating animal welfare and monitor RSPCA Queensland's animal welfare inspectorate work.

2.2 Subordinate legislation

The committee tabled 6 reports addressing 44 items of subordinate legislation during the reporting period.

- Report No. 12, Subordinate legislation tabled between 21 April 2021 and 15 June 2021 (report tabled 7 September 2021)
- Report No. 15, Subordinate legislation tabled between 16 June 2021 and 31 August 2021 (report tabled 17 November 2021)
- Report No. 16, 57th Parliament-Subordinate legislation tabled between 1 September 2021 and 12 October 2021 (report tabled 29 November 2021)
- Report No. 18, 57th Parliament-Subordinate legislation tabled between 12 October and 16 November 2021 (report tabled 28 March 2022)
- Report No. 21, 57th Parliament-Subordinate legislation tabled between 17 November 2021 and 22 February 2022 (report tabled 18 May 2022)

- Report No. 22, 57th Parliament-Subordinate legislation tabled between 23 February and 29 March 2022 (report tabled 20 June 2022).

The subordinate legislation covered a diverse range of policy areas including commercial fishing, land use planning amendments due to the pandemic, and water resourcing.

In scrutinising the subordinate legislation, the committee considered technical advice concerning fundamental legislative principles and human rights matters. The committee also conducted several public briefings with, but limited to, the Office of the Coordinator General regarding the State Development and Public Works Organisation Amendment Regulation 2021 (SL No. 101); and the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries regarding the Fisheries Legislation Amendment Declaration (No. 2) 2021 (SL No. 162).

The committee considered additional information from various departments to satisfy its positions on the subordinate legislation. This included the Planning Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2021 (SL No. 138) and the Rural and Regional Adjustment (Drought Preparedness Grant Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2021 (SL No. 160). All departmental responses are available on the committee's website.

2.3 Public works

The committee did not undertake any public works inquiries during the reporting period.

2.4 Public accounts and reports of the Auditor-General

Under section 94 of the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*, the committee is responsible for assessing the integrity, economy, efficiency and effectiveness of government financial management by examining government financial documents and considering reports of the Auditor-General.

The Committee of the Legislative Assembly referred 5 Auditor-General reports to the committee for consideration, pursuant to Standing Order 194B during the report period including:

- Auditor-General Report No. 3: 2021-22 – Water 2021
- Auditor-General Report No. 6: 2021-22 – Regulating animal welfare services
- Auditor-General Report No. 9: 2021-22 – Regulating dam safety
- Auditor-General Report No. 15: 2021-22 – Local government 2021
- Auditor-General Report No. 16: 2021-22 – Contract management for new infrastructure.

The committee conducted public briefings on each of the reports with the Auditor-General. The committee also conducted a private briefing with the Auditor-General and the Queensland Chief Information Security Officer on cybersecurity issues in relating to the *Water 2021* report.

The committee maintains a watching brief on many of the recommendations made by the Auditor-General, and has made several requests for implementation updates from departments during the reporting period.

2.5 Oversight of the Independent Assessor

The committee has oversight responsibility for the Independent Assessor and conducted both general oversight briefing as well as a public inquiry into the functions of the Independent Assessor during the reporting period.

2.5.1 Inquiry into the functions of the Office of the Independent Assessor

In November 2021, the committee self-referred an inquiry into the functions of the Independent Assessor. The inquiry followed a period of public commentary regarding the actions of the Independent Assessor and a request from the Deputy Premier following concerns raised by the local government sector.

The inquiry was comprehensive, involving the consideration of 60 submissions and public hearings in Brisbane, Townsville, Cairns, Karumba, Mount Isa, Bundaberg, Toowoomba and the Gold Coast between January and March 2022. Many elected officials and council officials took the opportunity to share their insights into the operation of the councillor conduct complaints system, and opportunities for reform of the system.

The committee consulted extensively with core stakeholders throughout the reporting period, including on the draft recommendations to be included in the committee's final report.

The report was tabled in October 2022.

2.6 Briefings and study visits

The committee initiated several non-inquiry related briefings on topical and higher profile policy areas of interest. This included public and private departmental briefings on:

- data collection methods for fishery stock assessments, including Spanish mackerel
- seasonal and overseas workers in the agriculture sector during the pandemic

The committee also conducted study visits with industry stakeholders to:

- Biosecurity Queensland's Wacol Tick Fever Centre and the University of Queensland's Gatton campus to learn about agricultural research and development
- A food processing facility to learn about the role of the beef industry in supporting primary production and regional economies and communities.

3 Committee expenditure

The committee had no revenue during the 2021-22 reporting period.

The committee is funded from the appropriation made to the Legislative Assembly. The expenditure of the committee for the 2021-22 reporting period is shown in the table below.

Item	\$
Staff salaries and related expenses ⁵	356,642
Business travel	45,562
Printing and production	2,103
Consultants – Legal advice	10,557
Telecommunication costs	10,784
Meeting expenses, stationery, consumables and miscellaneous expenses	18,837
Expenditure Total	444,485

⁵ These figures reflect a three person secretariat supporting the committee. The committee's staffing might have been supplemented with additional resources from general Committee Office staff throughout the year.

4 Meeting attendance record

The table below shows the attendance of committee members at committee meetings and other activities during the reporting period.

Standing Order 202(1) provides that in the case of a committee members' illness or inability to attend, another member may be appointed to attend that meeting or stand in for a particular inquiry.

Meeting Date	Activity	Chris Whiting MP	Jim McDonald MP	Michael Hart MP	Robbie Katter MP	Jim Madden MP	Tom Smith MP
8/7/2021	PM	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓
28/7/2021	PM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
28/7/2021	PM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
28/7/2021	PH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
16/8/2021	PM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
30/8/2021	PM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
13/9/2021	PM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
13/9/2021	PrB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
20/9/2021	PM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	x ⁶
6/10/2021	PM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
11/10/2021	PM	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓
11/10/2021	PB	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓
11/10/2021	PB	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓
15/10/2021	PM	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓
15/10/2021	PH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
25/10/2021	PM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
25/10/2021	PB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
25/10/2021	PB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
27/10/2021	PM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

⁶ Robert Skelton MP replaced Tom Smith MP as committee member on 20 September 2021 under SO202(1)

Meeting Date	Activity	Chris Whiting MP	Jim McDonald MP	Michael Hart MP	Robbie Katter MP	Jim Madden MP	Tom Smith MP
3/11/2021	PM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
15/11/2021	PM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
29/11/2021	PM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6/12/2021	PM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6/12/2021	PB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6/12/2021	PH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
14/12/2021	PB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
17/12/2021	PM	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓
12/1/2022	PM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
27/1/2022	PM	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓
27/1/2022	PB	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓
27/1/2022	PH	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓
9/2/2022	PM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
9/2/2022	PH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
11/2/2022	PM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
21/2/2022	PM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
21/2/2022	PB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
28/2/2022	PH	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓
28/2/2022	PH	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓
1/3/2022	PM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
1/3/2022	PH	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓
1/3/2022	PH	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓
2/3/2022	PH	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓
2/3/2022	PH	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓

Meeting Date	Activity	Chris Whiting MP	Jim McDonald MP	Michael Hart MP	Robbie Katter MP	Jim Madden MP	Tom Smith MP
7/3/2022	PH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
8/3/2022	PH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
8/3/2022	PrH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
8/3/2022	PH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
14/3/2022	PM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
14/3/2022	PB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
14/3/2022	PrB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
14/3/2022	PrB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
14/3/2022	PrB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
16/3/2022	PM	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓
18/3/2022	PM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
18/3/2022	PH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
18/3/2022	PrH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
21/3/2022	PH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
21/3/2022	PH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
21/3/2022	Prh	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
22/3/2022	PB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
22/3/2022	PH	✓	✓	✓	✓	x ⁷	✓
22/3/2022	PH	✓	✓	✓	✓	x	✓
22/3/2022	PrH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
28/3/2022	PM	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓
28/3/2022	PH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
30/3/2022	PM	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓

⁷ James Martin MP and Linus Power MP replaced Jim Madden MP as committee member on 22 March 2022 under SO202(1)

Meeting Date	Activity	Chris Whiting MP	Jim McDonald MP	Michael Hart MP	Robbie Katter MP	Jim Madden MP	Tom Smith MP
6/4/2022	PM	✓	✓	✓	✘	✓	✓ ⁸
28/4/2022	PM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
28/4/2022	PH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
9/5/2022	PM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
13/5/2022	PM	✓	✓	✓	✘	✓	✓
23/5/2022	PM	✓	✓	✓	✘	✓	✓
23/5/2022	PB	✓	✓	✓	✘	✓	✓
3/6/2022	PM	✓	✓	✓	✘	✓	✓
8/6/2022	PM	✓	✓	✘	✓	✓	✓
14/6/2022	PM	✓	✓	✓	✘	✓	✓
14/6/2022	PH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
14/6/2022	PrH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
15/6/2022	PM	✓	✓	✓	✘	✘	✓
15/6/2022	PH	✓	✓	✓	✘	✓	✓
20/6/2022	PM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
20/6/2022	PB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
20/6/2022	PB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
20/6/2022	PB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
29/6/2022	PM	✓	✓	✓	✘	✓	✓

Legend:

PM – private meeting
PH – public hearing
PB – public briefing
PrH – private hearing
PrB – private briefing
✓ – present

⁸ Adrian Tantari MP replaced Tom Smith MP as committee member on 6 April 2022 under SO202(1)