



2019 – 20 Budget Estimates

Report No. 18, 56th Parliament
Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment
Committee

August 2019

Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee

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Acknowledgements

The committee thanks:

- Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games
- Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts

The committee also acknowledges the assistance provided by departmental officers who contributed to the work of the committee during the budget estimates inquiry.

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Chair's foreword

This report presents a summary of the committee's examination of the budget estimates for the 2019-2020 financial year.

Consideration of the budget estimates allows for the public examination of the responsible Ministers and the chief executive officers of agencies within the committee's portfolio areas. This was undertaken through the questions on notice and public hearing process.

The committee has recommended that the proposed expenditure, as detailed in the Appropriation Bill 2019 for the committee's areas of responsibility, be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly without amendment.

On behalf of the committee, I thank the Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games, and the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts, and their departmental officers for their co-operation in providing information to the committee throughout this process.

I would also like to thank the members of the committee for their hard work and valuable contribution to the inquiry, and other members whose participation in the hearing provided additional scrutiny of the estimates.

Finally, I thank the committee's secretariat and other Parliamentary Service staff for their professional assistance throughout.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "D. Pegg". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

Duncan Pegg MP

Chair

August 2019

1 Introduction

1.1 Role of the committee

The Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee (committee) is a portfolio committee of the Legislative Assembly which commenced on 15 February 2018 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 include:

- Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and the Commonwealth Games, and
- Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Sciences and the Arts.

On 11 June 2019, the Appropriation Bill 2019 and the estimates for the committee's area of responsibility were referred to the committee for investigation and report.²

On 31 July 2019, the committee conducted a public hearing and took evidence about the proposed expenditure from the:

- Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games
- Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts, and
- other witnesses.

The transcript of the committee's hearing can be accessed on the inquiry webpage.

1.2 Aim of this report

The committee considered the estimates referred to it by using information contained in:

- budget papers
- answers to pre-hearing questions on notice
- evidence taken at the hearing
- additional information given in relation to answers.

This report summarises the estimates referred to the committee and highlights some of the issues the committee examined.

Prior to the public hearing, the committee provided the Ministers listed above with questions on notice in relation to the estimates. Responses to all the questions were received.

This information, together with documents tabled during the hearing, is published on the inquiry webpage.

1.3 Participation by other Members

The committee gave leave for other Members to participate in the hearing.

The following Members participated:

- Mr David Crisafulli MP, Member for Broadwater, Shadow Minister for Environment, Science and the Great Barrier Reef; Shadow Minister for Tourism

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

² Standing Order 177 provides for the automatic referral of the Annual Appropriation Bills to portfolio committees once the Bills have been read a second time.

- Mr Michael Hart MP, Member for Burleigh, Shadow Minister for Housing and Public Works, Shadow Minister for Energy, Shadow Minister for Innovation and Digital Technology
- Mr John-Paul Langbroek MP, Member for Surfers Paradise, Shadow Minister for Sport and Racing and Shadow Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Shadow Minister for the Commonwealth Games
- Dr Christian Rowan MP, Member for Moggill, Shadow Minister for Communities and Shadow Minister for Disability Services and Seniors; Shadow Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships; Shadow Minister for the Arts
- Mr Michael Berkman MP, Member for Maiwar
- Mr Jason Costigan MP, Member for Whitsunday.

2 Recommendation

Pursuant to Standing Order 187(1), the committee must state whether the proposed expenditures referred to it are agreed to.

Recommendation 1

The committee recommends that the proposed expenditure, as detailed in the Appropriation Bill 2019 for the committee's areas of responsibility, be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly without amendment.

3 Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games

3.1 Department of Innovation, Tourism Industry Development and the Commonwealth Games

The Honourable Kate Jones MP, Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games, is the Minister responsible for the Department of Innovation, Tourism Industry Development and the Commonwealth Games (DITID).

DITID comprises two service areas:

- Tourism Industry Development
- Advancing Queensland through Innovation.

The following table compares the appropriations for DITID for 2018-19 and 2019-20.

Table 1: Appropriations for DITID for 2018-2019 and 2019-20

Appropriations	2018-19 \$'000	2019-20 \$'000
<i>Controlled Items</i>		
departmental services	222,834	220,036
equity adjustment	(255)	(427)
<i>Administered Items</i>	107,889	109,902
Vote	330,468	329,511

Source: Appropriation Bill 2019, Schedule 2, p 10.

The value of total capital grants allocated to DITID in 2019-20 is \$93.4 million.³

3.1.1 Tourism Industry Development

This service area promotes the long-term growth of the tourism industry by facilitating planning and investment in the State's tourism infrastructure, assets and products and the coordination and leveraging of key major events to generate jobs.⁴

Budget highlights in 2019-2020 include:

- delivery of the Queen's Wharf Brisbane integrated resort development and progression of the procurement processes for the regional global tourism hubs in Cairns and the Gold Coast
- development of the Wangetti Trail as a high quality ecotourism experience
- delivery of initiatives under the *Growing Tourism, Growing Tourism Jobs* policy including implementation of:
 - \$48.6 million Attracting Tourism Fund which includes \$10 million for attracting aviation
 - \$46 million Growing Tourism Infrastructure Fund which includes \$10 million Outback Tourism Infrastructure Fund

³ Queensland State Budget 2019-20, Capital Statements – Department of Innovation, Tourism Industry Development and the Commonwealth Games, p 56.

⁴ Queensland State Budget 2019-20, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Innovation, Tourism Industry Development and the Commonwealth Games, p 1.

- approved projects under the Connecting with Asia Fund aimed at connecting Queensland destinations with targeted Asian markets
- delivery of the \$25 million Great Barrier Reef Island Resorts Rejuvenation Program
- progression of the \$25 million Great Keppel Island Rejuvenation Pilot to deliver tourism infrastructure improvements
- delivery of initiatives under the *Minjerrabah (North Stradbroke Island) Futures Strategy and Gudjundabu Marumba: Tourism for a Glad Tomorrow. A Five Year Strategy for sustainable tourism on Quandamooka Country*.⁵

3.1.2 Advancing Queensland through Innovation

This service area drives economic growth and job creation through innovation, harnessing Queensland's research strengths and entrepreneurship and using new technology, capital and ideas to support business and industry creation and growth.⁶

Budget highlights for 2019-2020 include:

- delivery of initiatives under the *Building our Innovation Economy - Advance Queensland Strategy* to accelerate innovation in Queensland's economy, including:
 - commencing work on establishing an industry robotics cluster in mining, defence and the environment
 - targeting research funding on identified priorities, including water and energy sustainability, healthcare, climate change and the Great Barrier Reef
 - improving the quality and speed of the internet in regional Queensland
- delivery of key innovation and Advance Queensland objectives including:
 - supporting innovation community leaders and entrepreneurs on missions to leading startup-rich environments through the Startup Catalyst program
 - attracting global entrepreneurs to Queensland to inject new talent, increase connectivity and skills and improve access to global startup communities and international markets through the Hot DesQ program
 - driving innovation and entrepreneurship in regional Queensland through the Advancing Regional Innovation Program; Startup Onramp Program; Regional Startup Hubs Support Program and Regional Business Angels Support Program.⁷

3.2 Statutory Bodies

The Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games is also responsible for one statutory body, Tourism and Events Queensland (TEQ).

⁵ Queensland State Budget 2019-20, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Innovation, Tourism Industry Development and the Commonwealth Games, p 4.

⁶ Queensland State Budget 2019-20, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Innovation, Tourism Industry Development and the Commonwealth Games, p 6.

⁷ Queensland State Budget 2019-20, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Innovation, Tourism Industry Development and the Commonwealth Games, pp 6-7.

3.2.1 Tourism and Events Queensland

Tourism and Events Queensland is the State's lead tourism marketing, destination and experience development and major events agenda.⁸

Budget highlights for TEQ in 2019-2020 include:

- building on the Beautiful One Day, Perfect the Next platform to deliver a global marketing and brand strategy to meet evolving consumer needs
- working with industry and government partners to deliver experiences that position Queensland as a destination of choice in a competitive global environment
- maximising the value of the It's Live! in Queensland events calendar through securing major events and supporting regional tourism through the Queensland Destination Events and Business Events Programs
- investing resources in international and domestic markets through a balanced portfolio approach that capitalises on emerging opportunities while maintaining traditional markets, ensuring longer term growth and a greater market share for Queensland tourism
- supporting the Year of Outback Tourism by delivering activities in partnership with key stakeholders that showcase the region's events and experiences and drive visitation and expenditure in local communities.⁹

3.3 Key issues raised at the public hearing

Issues raised by the committee and participating Members in relation to the portfolio of the Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games included:

Tourism Industry Development

- surcharge land tax for international tourism investors
- Queensland cruise tourism sector
- attraction of major events to Queensland
- projects delivered through the Growing Tourism Infrastructure Fund
- regulation of short-term lets in Queensland
- implementation and expected economic impacts of the Queen's Wharf Brisbane project
- outcomes of the Great Barrier Reef Island Resorts Rejuvenation Program
- progress in implementing the global tourism hubs in Cairns and the Gold Coast
- retention, promotion and training of tourism industry workers
- tourism investment generated through the Attracting Tourism Fund.

Innovation

⁸ Queensland State Budget 2019-20, Service Delivery Statements – Department of Innovation, Tourism Industry Development and the Commonwealth Games, p 20.

⁹ Queensland State Budget 2019-20, Service Delivery Statements, Department of Innovation, Tourism Industry Development and the Commonwealth Games, p 20.

- promotion of start-up companies and SMEs to international investors through the Advance Queensland program
- review of the Hot DesQ program
- Small Business Research Innovation Fund
- government actions to support drone technology
- government investment in the Defence Cooperative Research Centre for Trusted Autonomous Systems
- supporting innovation, entrepreneurship and start-ups in regional Queensland
- improving digital connectivity in regional Queensland through FibreCo Queensland
- Commonwealth Games 2018 legacy including payments to subcontractors.¹⁰

¹⁰ Transcript of public hearing, Brisbane, 31 July 2019.

4 Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts

4.1 Department of Environment and Science

The Honourable Leeanne Enoch MP, Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts, is the Minister responsible for the Department of Environment and Science (DES).

DES comprises the following service areas:

- Environmental Protection Services
- Parks, Wildlife and Conservation Services
- Science
- Arts Queensland
- Heritage Protection Services.

The Minister is also responsible for the Office of the Queensland Chief Scientist, which is reported under the Science service area.¹¹

The following table compares the appropriations for DES for 2018-19 and 2019-20.

Table 2: Appropriations 2018-19 and 2019-20 for Department of Environment and Science

Appropriations	2018-19 \$'000	2019-20 \$'000
<i>Controlled Items</i>		
departmental services	651,475	623,521
equity adjustment	(8,043)	(3,413)
<i>Administered Items</i>	139,452	153,931
Vote	782,884	774,039

Source: Appropriation Bill 2019, Schedule 2, p 9.

In 2019-20, the capital program for the Department of Environment and Science is \$106.2 million, including capital grants of \$5.6 million.¹²

4.1.1 Environmental Protection Services

The objective of Environmental Protection Services is to avoid, minimise or mitigate the negative impacts on the environment, through design and implementation of regulations that guide and control the activities of businesses, individuals, and state and local governments.¹³

¹¹ The objective of the Office of the Queensland Chief Scientist is to provide high-level strategic advice to the State Government on the role of science, research and innovation to meet Queensland's challenges and to foster cooperation and collaboration amongst the government, research, industry and community sectors (Queensland State Budget 2019-20, Service Delivery Statements, Department of Environment and Science, p 2).

¹² Queensland State Budget 2019-20, Capital Statement, Department of Environment and Science, p 45.

¹³ Queensland Government 2019-20, Service Delivery Statements, Department of Environment and Science, p 5.

Budget highlights for 2019-2020 include:

- implementing Queensland's Climate Change Response including delivery of the *Queensland Climate Transition Strategy and the Queensland Climate Adaptation Strategy*
- leading the \$500 million Land Restoration Fund to support and grow Queensland's carbon farming sector to supply premium carbon offsets and derive economic, social, and other environmental benefits
- providing \$30.1 million in 2019-20 (\$85.3 million over four years to 2022-23) for the implementation of the Queensland Waste Levy from 1 July 2019
- implementing strengthened reef regulations, including the delivery of \$5.6 million in 2019-20 to support graziers and cane and banana growers transition to improved practice standards
- leading a review of the biodiversity offsets framework.¹⁴

4.1.2 Parks, Wildlife and Conservation Services

The objective this service area is to manage and conserve protected areas, marine parks, habitats, forests and recreation areas to safeguard their ecological and cultural values, and facilitate sustainable recreational opportunities and nature based tourism. The service area is also responsible for protecting and preserving the diversity and integrity of Queensland's ecosystems, and ensuring that the conservation status of native species is maintained or enhanced.¹⁵

Budget highlights for 2019-2020 include:

- publication of a Protected Area strategy focused on improved conservation of biodiversity and threatened species and sustainable management of Queensland's protected areas
- increased funding of \$10 million in 2019-20 for the National Parks capital works program to upgrade infrastructure, and provide enjoyment and protection of Queensland's parks and forests
- development and implementation of the Gurra Gurra Integrated First Nations Framework
- funding of \$12.7 million in 2019-20 to the Great Barrier Reef Joint Field Management Program to protect and maintain marine island ecosystems in the Great Barrier Reef and employ additional rangers and field officers
- funding of \$1.1 million in 2019-20 (and \$8.7 million over four years) for the implementation and management of the protected area estate on North Stradbroke Island (Minjerribah).¹⁶

4.1.3 Science

This service area provides support for science and research partnerships in Queensland, and provides scientific knowledge, information and advice to support the achievement of Government priorities. This service area includes the Office of the Queensland Chief Scientist.¹⁷

¹⁴ Queensland State Budget 2019-20, Service Delivery Statements, Department of Environment and Science, pp 6-7.

¹⁵ Queensland State Budget 2019-20, Service Delivery Statements, Department of Environment and Science, p 10.

¹⁶ Queensland State Budget 2019-20, Service Delivery Statements, Department of Environment and Science, p 11.

¹⁷ Queensland State Budget 2019-20, Service Delivery Statements, Department of Environment and Science, p 14.

Key budget highlights for 2019-2020 include:

- implementation of the *Citizen Science* strategy and grants to enable Queenslanders to participate in science projects
- release of Engaging Science Grants to increase participation in STEM subjects and increase engagement and participation of the community in science-based activities
- finalising amendments to Queensland’s biodiscovery legislation
- rolling out the Research Infrastructure Co-investment Fund to leverage Australian Government and industry funds and deliver a more coordinated and strategic approach to investment in research infrastructure
- investing \$4.8 million in capital funding, over three years ending in 2020-21, to upgrade and extend the department’s computing facility and modernise critical scientific systems, as part of the Accelerating Science Delivery Innovation program.¹⁸

4.1.4 Arts Queensland

This service area supports access to arts and culture to enable the growth of the arts sector and a community that values the arts.¹⁹

Budget highlights for 2019-2020 include:

- \$1.5 million (\$7 million over two years ending in 2020-21) towards the renewal of the Central Energy Plant to maintain environmental conditions and meet increased service demand at the Queensland Cultural Centre
- \$2.5 million (\$5 million over two years ending in 2020-21) to modernise Queensland Performing Arts Centre’s lighting
- \$1.6 million (\$2 million over two years) to develop an options assessment to establish an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Centre in Brisbane
- \$5.2 million (\$125 million over four years ending in 2021-22) to build the new \$150 million performing arts theatre at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre
- a further \$8 million to address critical infrastructure upgrade works at the Queensland Museum and the Queensland Cultural Centre, South Bank
- provide \$4 million (\$8 million over two years ending in 2020-21) to the Rockhampton Regional Council for the construction of the new Rockhampton Art Gallery.²⁰

4.1.5 Heritage Protection Services

The objective of this service area is to protect Queensland’s heritage by recognising its value and ensuring it is conserved and its value is promoted for present and future generations.²¹

Budget highlights for 2019-2020 include:

- reviewing and updating listings on the Queensland Heritage Register

¹⁸ Queensland State Budget 2019-20, Service Delivery Statements, Department of Environment and Science, p 15.

¹⁹ Queensland State Budget 2019-20, Service Delivery Statements, Department of Environment and Science, p 16.

²⁰ Queensland State Budget 2019-20, Service Delivery Statements, Department of Environment and Science, p 15.

²¹ Queensland State Budget 2019-20, Service Delivery Statements, Department of Environment and Science, p 19.

- finalising options to implement proposals recommended by the Heritage Working Group
- developing and enhancing existing policies and procedures to protect the State's heritage
- investing funding of \$1.5 million in 2019-20 (\$6.1 million in total, ending in 2022-23) for urgent remedial conservation works to identified State heritage buildings.²²

4.2 Statutory Bodies

The Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts is also responsible for the following statutory bodies:

- Library Board of Queensland
- Queensland Art Gallery
- Queensland Museum
- Queensland Performing Arts Trust.²³

4.2.1 Library Board of Queensland

Budget highlights for 2019-2020 include:

- strengthening the focus on digital content to meet legal deposit obligations
- implementing digital preservation strategies and practices
- building capability in collecting and interpreting rare printed and original materials
- celebrating the International Year of Indigenous Languages with a major program of activities.
- investing in public library collections and services and partnering with local government to realise the potential of public libraries and Indigenous Knowledge Centres.²⁴

The Library Board of Queensland will invest \$2.3 million to purchase heritage and reference collections, assets in the form of digital collections, and replace information technology equipment.²⁵

4.2.2 Queensland Art Gallery

Budget highlights for 2019-2020 include:

- delivery of an exhibition program including the ticketed blockbuster exhibition, *Water*, and major exhibitions of work by Australian artists Margaret Olley and Ben Quilty
- presentation of major installation works from the Queensland Art Gallery Collection and a program of Collection-based exhibitions
- presentation of the next iteration of the Gallery's Q exhibition series focused on contemporary Queensland art
- hosting of blockbuster exhibitions exclusive to Brisbane through increased funding of \$4 million over two years.²⁶

²² Queensland State Budget 2019-20, Service Delivery Statements, Department of Environment and Science, p 19.

²³ Queensland State Budget 2019-20, Service Delivery Statements, Department of Environment and Science, p 38.

²⁴ Queensland State Budget 2019-20, Service Delivery Statements, Department of Environment and Science, p 38.

²⁵ Queensland State Budget 2019-20, Capital Statement, Department of Environment and Science, p 46.

²⁶ Queensland State Budget 2019-20, Service Delivery Statements, Department of Environment and Science, p 45.

The Queensland Art Gallery will invest \$2.8 million in acquiring art for the gallery's collection, as well as life-cycle replacement of other property, plant and equipment assets.²⁷

4.2.3 Queensland Museum

Budget highlights for 2019-2020 include:

- collection, preservation and development of State collection objects and specimens which reflect Queensland's natural and cultural heritage and science and technology development
- delivery of an expanded research and biodiversity collection storage centre with an investment of \$16.1 million over four years from 2019-20 to 2022-23 to preserve and maintain valuable collection items to international standards
- creation of lifelong learning opportunities through exhibitions, events, programs, publications and digital media.²⁸

The Queensland Museum will invest \$7.3 million to expand the research and biodiversity collection storage centre, replace information technology assets and acquire new equipment.²⁹

4.2.4 Queensland Performing Arts Trust

Budget highlights for 2019-2020 include:

- continuing to work closely with experts to support the delivery of the new performing arts theatre to be constructed at Queensland Performing Arts Complex (QPAC)
- extending the reach of programming by engaging regional audiences through touring programs and digital streaming and simulcasts
- providing detailed market intelligence to arts companies to increase the effectiveness of their audience development strategies
- presenting a Queensland exclusive season of the world-renowned Bolshoi Ballet, alongside an extensive program of events
- continuing to work with First Nations artists and communities to deliver a rolling program of engagement, professional development and events
- delivering a broad program of musical theatre including Chicago, The Book of Mormon, School of Rock and Muriel's Wedding.³⁰

The Queensland Performing Arts Trust will invest \$1 million in the life-cycle replacement of operational property, plant and equipment assets such as theatre equipment and food and beverage equipment.³¹

²⁷ Queensland State Budget 2019-20, Capital Statement, Department of Environment and Science, p 46.

²⁸ Queensland State Budget 2019-20, Service Delivery Statements, Department of Environment and Science, p 52.

²⁹ Queensland State Budget 2019-20, Capital Statement, Department of Environment and Science, p 47.

³⁰ Queensland State Budget 2019-20, Service Delivery Statements, Department of Environment and Science, p 57.

³¹ Queensland State Budget 2019-20, Capital Statement, Department of Environment and Science, p 47.

4.3 Key issues raised at the public hearing

Issues raised by the committee and participating Members in relation to the portfolio areas of the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts included:

Environment and the Great Barrier Reef

- environmental protection processes and the approval process for the Carmichael coalmine
- review of the environmental impact statement process
- Queensland's Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy, including the waste disposal levy, procurement activities and intended outcomes
- implementation of the container refund scheme
- measures to protect and build resilience of the Great Barrier Reef and the economic contribution of the reef to state and regional economies
- government measures to address climate change
- implementation of the Land Restoration Fund
- allocation of funding to assist not-for-profit organisations protect threatened species and biodiversity
- investment in visitor infrastructure in national parks
- biodiversity offset framework
- completion of the South-East Queensland koala conservation strategy
- refinement of the protected plants flora survey trigger map
- management of crocodile declarations.

Science

- government actions to support science literacy in the community
- measures to encourage the accessibility of science including the World Science Festival
- biodiscovery and access to science and commercial outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
- measures to increase representation of women in STEM subjects and industries.

Arts

- proceeds of the Margaret Olley *A Generous Life* exhibition
- funding arrangements for the Queensland Arts Showcase Program
- funding arrangements for the Cairns Gallery Precinct project
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representation on arts boards and committees
- regional reach of the Queensland Theatre Company
- measures to support artists in Queensland
- government investment in arts infrastructure
- implementation of the First 5 Forever program.

5 Statements of Reservation

Statement of Reservation

Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee Estimates Hearing 2019-20

The estimates process in itself is one that has been questioned by constituents regarding its effectiveness and ability to deliver the required outcomes and good value to taxpayers. There are a number of reasons for this, including the time spent by all Departments in preparation for questions that 'may' be asked, and the capacity within the allocated provisions to obtain succinct answers, and lengthy responses that do not allow for further questioning.

Having written to the Premier after last Estimates, and in the process of doing so again, I feel it relevant, and important, to include these concerns, on behalf of Queenslanders, within this portfolio Committee report. Yes, it is essential to have a process that 'holds Government to account', however if that process could be made more efficient, economical and delivers the same, if not better outcomes, it should be explored.

Spending 7 days in multiple hearings was educational. There were many excellent questions, as well responses that were 'already knowns' or were not answered sufficiently, leading to follow up letters for clarity. Within the ITDE Committee hearing, as well all others I attended, it was positive to see an increase in improved behaviour, relevant questions and answers, as well greater consistency in rulings. However, that the process led our office to write 20 letters to Ministers on 30 issues to cover questions that could not be fitted into the time allocation, as well to seek clarification on answers given, provides just one rationale for seeking further improvement. Suggestions from constituents have included whether all questions should be 'on notice' with responses provided prior to the sitting day where questions without notice are then utilised to get clarification to those responses. This would save time, and also ensure that all Departmental resources is spent in obtaining the relevant information necessary, instead of preparing for questions that may be never asked.

In closing, it is important that Committees themselves look at this process and ask objectively whether it is serving its purpose to the expectations of their communities, and if not, how it can be improved?

Thank you to our Chair, Committee members and secretariat, as well all Committee's which kindly permitted my attendance. May we continue to question and seek refinements and greater efficiency in all that we do.



Sandy Bolton MP

Member for Noosa

Statement of Reservations

Opening

The Palaszczuk Labor Government's 2019/20 budget was a bad budget for Queensland.

It was a budget of higher taxes, more debt, less jobs and less infrastructure.

Queenslanders can't afford Labor.

When Labor runs out of money, they come after yours.

The budget showed that Labor is actually cutting infrastructure spending at a time when we now have the worst unemployment on mainland Australia.

Annastacia Palaszczuk isn't borrowing to build, Labor are borrowing to cover their wasteful spending.

It was also a budget of new taxes – not announced at the last state election in another major breach of the trust to the people of Queensland.

It was a budget that introduced new taxes ripping another \$1.25 billion from the state's economy, plunged Queensland into than \$90 billion in debt and revealed almost 26,000 less jobs than forecast.

This \$1.25 billion in new taxes is on top of the taxes Labor has already inflicted on Queensland since being re-elected.

A total of \$3.5 billion in taxes so far and Annastacia Palaszczuk hasn't ruled out more taxes and tax hikes into the future.

The 2019 estimates hearings were dominated by the Palaszczuk Labor Government's ongoing integrity crisis. In the 30th year since the Fitzgerald Inquiry report was published, these latest scandals provide significant questions about the government's openness, transparency, accountability and integrity that have engulfed the leadership of this government.

Tourism

Sadly, the Minister's conduct during the hearing for tourism industry development reflected poorly upon both her and the wider government in which she serves. Throughout the hearing the Minister regularly interjected, argued and spoke over witnesses.

The estimates process affords a rare opportunity for the detailed scrutiny of actual and proposed departmental expenditure where questions can be put to, and answered by, senior public servants and officers. The Minister's continued interjections and direct forceful advice to committee witnesses directly impeded upon the ability of the Committee to fulfil its role.

The hearing revealed example after example of where the Minister had floated prospects of major events across Queensland for media opportunities to only leave these ideas as undelivered and uncommitted thought bubbles. Media reports of an NFL game in Suncorp, to the State of Origin in Townsville and IndyCars on the Gold Coast were all confirmed by the CEO of Tourism and Events Queensland to be nothing more than just reports, that in our opinion, were stoked by a Minister who is more concerned about spin than substance.

Adding to the Minister's unbecoming conduct throughout the hearing were the arguably misleading statements she made in response to questions asked. With respect to a specific question asking for a breakdown of \$13.9 million budgeted expenditure the Minister responded that the answer was provided in a question on notice which was referred to past expenditure, not budgeted. As the below transcript excerpt and subsequent question on notice excerpt outlines the Minister has purposely avoided answering this straightforward request for further information by incorrectly stating that this information had already been provided to the committee.

Mr CRISAFULLI: My question is to the minister. I refer to Budget Paper No. 4 at page 64 relating to the additional \$13.9 million for global tourism hubs and ecotourism trails. Could you provide a breakdown between how much has been allocated to global tourism hubs and how much has been allocated towards ecotourism trails?

Ms JONES: In regard to global tourism hubs that answer was provided to you in response to a question on notice so you have the breakdown.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I would like you to answer that question.

Ms JONES: I have answered that question. You have it on the record. It was provided to you at 10 am yesterday.

Question on Notice 10

THE INNOVATION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR INNOVATION AND TOURISM INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER FOR THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES (HON K JONES) —

QUESTION:

With reference to page 2 of the DITID Service Delivery Statement, progression of market approaches for global tourism hubs in Cairns and the Gold Coast, will the Minister advise the total departmental and ministerial expenses from 2017 to date relating to:

- (a) the proposed Global Tourism Hub in Cairns, and
- (b) the proposed Global Tourism Hub in the Gold Coast?

ANSWER:

The Palaszczuk Government is managing market processes delivering global tourism hubs in Brisbane, Cairns and the Gold Coast to leverage private sector investment to create new tourism experiences which will attract more visitors and grow tourism jobs in Queensland.

The first project to be contracted was Queen's Wharf Brisbane – a \$3.6 billion integrated resort development in the heart of Brisbane.

Market engagement for global tourism hubs in Cairns and the Gold Coast are continuing and these projects are expected to leverage many hundreds of millions of dollars in private investment and create more than 8,000 jobs.

Expenses are funded entirely from within the departmental budget and these are:

- a) \$2.9 million
- b) \$2.5 million

It is the opinion of the LNP that the Minister misled the committee by referring to information in a question on notice that did not exist. The Minister then again used the same tactic to avoid detailing the cost of a report commissioned by external consultants on behalf of the government.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I will ask a further question of the director-general. How much has been spent on the report that identifies the 11 secret sites for the proposed Gold Coast Global Tourism Hub?

Ms JONES: It was answer to question on notice 10 yesterday, for the record. I can table that.

Mr KRAUSE: Point of order, Mr Chair. The minister is being highly disorderly with her disruptions to the committee.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Very much so.

Mr KRAUSE: I would ask that you direct her to cease the interjections. She has not been asked direct questions and we would like an answer from the director-general.

Ms JONES: Everyone can see that.

CHAIR: There is no point of order. Minister, are you seeking to table the publicly available answer to the question on notice to assist the—

Ms JONES: I would like to table the answer to the question on notice provided yesterday which is the question that the honourable member for Broadwater just asked. He received the answer to that exact question yesterday at 10 am. I thought he would have read it by now.

The tourism industry development estimates hearing concluded with the Director General advising an array of funds promising capital investment had been significantly underspent. The Great Keppel Island capital grant had been underspent by half and of the budgeted \$12 million capital grants for tourism infrastructure only \$2.6 million had been expended.

With a Minister more preoccupied with media announcements rather than working to build Queensland's tourism industry, it's no wonder why Queensland now has the lowest share of international visitors in more than a decade.

Innovation

The LNP Members of the Committee recognise the importance of innovation to boost productivity, skills and jobs in the new economy.

However, the way in which the various grants are executed causes a number of concerns. Firstly, as there are multiple points of contact, it is not clear how potential conflicts of interest are managed. As a worrying example, a \$267,500 taxpayer funded grant was awarded to a company (Fortress Capstone) with the Director and major shareholder who is also the Premier's Chief of Staff. In answers to related questions, the Committee heard the decision maker and administering body for the grant under the Business Development Fund is a Government-owned Corporation under the control of the Premier.

It is also not clear how full-time public sector workers who are awarded grants could devote sufficient time to fulfil the mentoring and business development criteria attached to these grants. An independent audit should be undertaken to examine the entire grants approval process to maintain the integrity of the program. The selection process appears to be a "hit and miss" situation whereby grants are awarded to companies who very quickly leave the State or are wound up. The HotDesQ program falls into this category and it is noted that the Government is now re-directing funding to other programs. It is also of concern that rather than acknowledging the issues, they are being explained away as "there is no need to continue the program" or "it served a purpose at the time". This also applied to the Myriad Festival which, despite the fanfare when it was launched, vanished from the program.

It would seem a greater focus on accountability and transparency, combined with better alignment of the outcomes to the stated objectives of the program is needed. As the Government moves into the next stage of the Advance Queensland agenda, it is hoped that careful consideration will be given to the lessons learned from the past failures and that value for taxpayers money is at the forefront of program design and implementation.

Commonwealth Games

The LNP questioned whether the \$167 million State Contingency Fund would be used to fund stage three of the Light Rail on the Gold Coast. This is an infrastructure project that would leave a lasting GC2018 legacy on the Gold Coast. The project may help alleviate traffic congestion into the future as we extend the light rail to ensure it is a viable alternative for both locals and visitors to travel across the city. The Labor Minister refused to provide a commitment to fund this important project. Labor's attempt to shift the blame to the Federal Government shows that they see Light Rail as nothing but a political football.

Environment and Science

After the Palaszczuk Labor Government's betrayal of regional communities by fighting against Adani Carmichael Mine for four years, revelations that it cost taxpayers \$27,000 for the black throated finch management plan review is yet another kick in the guts to regional Queenslanders.

The approvals that the Minister's department made for the Carmichael Mine took 18 months longer than they should have and now estimates have revealed taxpayers had to foot the bill for a politically motivated \$27,000 external review.

Labor's anti-resources, anti-regions, anti-jobs agenda has held regional communities back for too long.

The Minister's inability to focus on detail was revealed through the staggering insights that end markets had not been secured for all containers that are part of the container deposit scheme.

Queenslanders across the state have been turning up to supposed disposal sites that aren't complete, don't exist or are simply not working and now they may be getting slugged for a recycling initiative that doesn't improve recycling.

The Palaszczuk Labor Government are more focused on photo opportunities than ensuring they deliver upon their promises.

Without intervention to secure end markets for scheme products, the container deposit scheme will simply become yet another Labor tax on Queenslanders.

The Director General also confirmed that after 3 years since the first koala expert workshop was convened the government was still no closer to releasing a koala protection strategy. Queensland's koala populations are coming under increasing pressure after every day of inaction from the Palaszczuk Labor Government.

Arts

During Estimates the LNP raised the issue of the Queensland Art Gallery and Gallery of Modern Art and the public controversy surrounding the displayed works of Australian paedophile artist Donald Friend. Furthermore, the LNP requested the Labor Government consider donating a portion of the proceeds of the Margaret Olley A Generous Life exhibition to child victim support groups.

Further, during estimates questions were raised in relation to the Labor Government's intention to create an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural centre in Brisbane. Questions were also asked about the Palaszczuk Labor Government's commitment towards the Cairns Gallery Precinct project. Another example of the Palaszczuk Labor Government being anti-regions and anti-jobs.



Jon Krause MP
Member for Scenic Rim



Mark Boothman MP
Member for Theodore

