



Annual Report 2020 - 2021

**Report No. 14, 57th Parliament
Economics and Governance
Committee
September 2021**

Economics and Governance Committee

Chair	Mr Linus Power MP, Member for Logan
Deputy Chair	Mr Ray Stevens MP, Member for Mermaid Beach
Members	Mr Michael Crandon MP, Member for Coomera
	Mrs Melissa McMahon MP, Member for Macalister
	Mr Daniel Purdie MP, Member for Ninderry
	Mr Adrian Tantari MP, Member for Hervey Bay

Committee Secretariat

Telephone	+61 7 3553 6637
Fax	+61 7 3553 6699
Email	egc@parliament.qld.gov.au
Technical Scrutiny Secretariat	+61 7 3553 6601
Committee webpage	www.parliament.qld.gov.au/EGC

All web address references were current at the time of publishing.

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Abbreviations

2020-21 Appropriation Bills	Appropriation (Parliament) (2020-2021) Bill 2020 and Appropriation (2020-21) Bill 2020
2021-22 Appropriation Bills	Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2021 and Appropriation Bill 2021
Attorney-General	Hon Shannon Fentiman MP, Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence
committee	Economics and Governance Committee (57 th Parliament)
FLPs	fundamental legislative principles
former committee	Economics and Governance Committee (56 th Parliament)
HRA	<i>Human Rights Act 2019</i>
ICT	information and communications technology
LSA	<i>Legislative Standards Act 1992</i>
POQA	<i>Parliament of Queensland Act 2001</i>
Premier	Hon Anastacia Palaszczuk MP, Premier and Minister for Trade
QAO	Queensland Audit Office
QIC	Queensland Integrity Commissioner
Report No. 1	Economics and Governance Committee, <i>Report No. 1, 57th Parliament – Subordinate legislation tabled between 17 June 2020 and 14 July 2020</i> , November 2020
Report No. 4	Economics and Governance Committee, <i>Report No. 4, 57th Parliament – Subordinate legislation tabled between 15 July 2020 and 8 September 2020</i> , February 2021
Report No. 5	Economics and Governance Committee, <i>Report No. 5, 57th Parliament – Subordinate legislation tabled between 9 September 2020 and 26 November 2020</i> , February 2021
Report No. 7	Economics and Governance Committee, <i>Report No. 7, 57th Parliament – Subordinate legislation tabled between 27 November 2020 and 23 March 2021</i> , 28 April 2021
Report No. 9	Economics and Governance Committee, <i>Report No. 9, 57th Parliament – Subordinate legislation tabled between 24 March 2021 and 20 April 2021</i> , June 2021
Standing Orders	Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Assembly (Queensland)
Treasurer	Hon Cameron Dick MP, Treasurer and Minister for Investment

1 Economics and Governance Committee

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

The committee's primary areas of responsibility are:

- Premier and Cabinet, and Trade
- Treasury and Investment
- Tourism Industry Development, Innovation and Sport.

In relation to its portfolio areas, the committee:

- examines the estimates of each department and relevant statutory agency
- examines bills to consider the policy to be enacted
- examines bills and subordinate legislation for the application of fundamental legislative principles (FLPs) set out in section 4 of the *Legislative Standards Act 1992* (LSA)
- considers the compatibility of bills and subordinate legislation with the *Human Rights Act 2019* (HRA), including examining statements of compatibility for bills and examining human rights certificates for subordinate legislation
- considers the lawfulness of subordinate legislation
- assesses the public accounts of each department in regard to their economy, efficiency and effectiveness of financial management, by:
 - examining government financial documents
 - considering the annual and other reports of the Auditor-General
- may consider departments' public works in light of matters including, but not limited to, the:
 - suitability of the works for the purpose
 - necessity for the works
 - value for money of the works
 - revenue produced by, and recurrent costs of, the works, or estimates of revenue and costs
 - present and prospective public value of the works
 - actual suitability of the works in meeting the needs and achieving the stated purpose of the works.²

In addition, the committee has a monitor and review function in relation to the performance of the functions of the Auditor-General and the Queensland Integrity Commissioner (QIC).³

¹ *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001* (POQA), s 88; Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Assembly (Standing Orders), SO 194, Schedule 6.

² See POQA, ss 92-97, which set out the role of a portfolio committee and outline the activities a committee may undertake or is required to undertake, including in relation to legislation and proposed legislation (inclusive of the Appropriation Bills which set out the portfolio budget estimates), and public accounts and public works. See also HRA, ss 39, 40 and 57.

³ Standing Orders, Schedule 6; *Auditor-General Act 2009*, ss 9, 11, 12, 12A, 18, 21, 38A, 68, 70; *Integrity Act 2009*, ss 68, 74, 78, 80, 81, 82, 85, 86, 88, 89.

2 Annual report

In accordance with section 108 of the POQA, the committee is required to table an annual report within 4 months and 14 days after the end of each financial year. The report must include:

- a list of meetings of the committee and the names of members attending or absent from each meeting
- a summary of issues considered by the committee, including a description of the more significant issues arising from the considerations
- a statement of the committee's revenue and spending for the year
- a brief description of responses by Ministers to recommendations of the committee.

This report provides a summary of the activities of the committee from its establishment on 26 November 2020 through to 30 June 2021, including setting out the committee's:

- inquiries and reports
- consideration of Auditor-General reports
- monitoring and oversight activities
- committee expenditure
- meeting attendance records.

3 Inquiries and reports

During the reporting period, the committee considered the portfolio budget estimates set out in the annual appropriation bills and examined a number of other bills and items of subordinate legislation.

The committee tabled 9 reports on these inquiries and consideration activities in total, details of which are outlined below (see 3.1 regarding the committee's examination of bills and 3.2 regarding the committee's examination of subordinate legislation).

Copies of these 9 reports are available on the committee's webpage.⁴

3.1 Examination of Bills

The committee examined 7 bills in total, including:

- considering the portfolio budget estimates contained in 2 sets of annual appropriation bills (4 bills in total), in accordance with section 92(1)(a) and 92(3) of the POQA⁵ and chapter 31 of the Standing Orders
- considering 3 other referred bills in accordance with its responsibilities under section 93 of the POQA and chapters 23 and 24 of the Standing Orders.

The committee tabled 4 reports on these bills, with its consideration of 3 bills remaining ongoing as at 30 June 2021.

3.1.1 Appropriation (Parliament) (2020-2021) Bill 2020 and Appropriation (2020-2021) Bill 2020 (Reports No. 2 and 3 – 2020-21 Budget Estimates)

On 4 December 2020, the Appropriation (Parliament) (2020-2021) Bill 2020 and the Appropriation (2020-21) Bill 2020 (2020-21 Appropriation Bills) were referred to the committee for its examination and report on the 2020-21 portfolio budget estimates within the committee's area of responsibility, as set out in Schedule 6 of the Standing Orders.

The committee conducted a public hearing on 7 December 2020, in which it questioned the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly regarding the proposed expenditure for the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service, and questioned the following Ministers regarding the proposed expenditure for their portfolio areas:

- Premier and Minister for Trade (Premier)
- Treasurer and Minister for Investment (Treasurer)
- Minister for Tourism Industry Development and Innovation and Minister for Sport.

The committee also questioned the chief executives of portfolio statutory entities, as identified in Schedule 7 of the Standing Orders, regarding the budget estimates for their agencies.

The committee tabled its reports on the 2020-21 Appropriation Bills (Reports No. 2 and 3), together with a volume of additional information, on 12 February 2021, recommending that the portfolio expenditures as proposed in the 2 bills be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly without amendment.

The committee tabled an Erratum to Report No. 3 on 22 February 2021, to correct certain details regarding the administrative responsibilities of the Treasurer.

⁴ Queensland Parliament, *Economics and Governance Committee*, <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/egc>.

⁵ See also Standing Orders, SO 132.

The Treasurer acknowledged the contents of the committee's reports during the debate of the reports in the Parliament on 23 February 2021.⁶ The 2020-21 Appropriation Bills were passed on 24 February 2021.

3.1.2 COVID-19 Emergency Response and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021 (Report No. 6)

On 11 March 2021, the COVID-19 Emergency Response and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021 was referred to the committee for examination and report.⁷

The committee received a public briefing on the bill on 22 March 2021 and received and accepted 10 submissions, before holding a public hearing on the bill on 29 March 2021.

The committee tabled its report on the bill on 14 April 2021, recommending that the bill be passed. The report also included committee commentary encouraging the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence (Attorney-General) to clarify certain matters during the Second Reading Debate on the bill.⁸

The Attorney-General acknowledged the committee's report and recommendation during the Second Reading Debate on 20 April 2021, as well as providing additional information in relation to the matters raised by the committee.⁹ The bill was passed on 20 April 2021.

3.1.3 Debt Reduction and Savings Bill 2021 (Report No. 8)

On 25 March 2021, the Debt Reduction and Savings Bill 2021 was referred to the committee for examination and report.

The committee received a public briefing on the bill on 12 April 2021, and received and accepted 15 submissions and one supplementary submission.

The committee held a public hearing on 27 April 2021.

The committee tabled its report on the bill on 14 May 2021, recommending that the bill be passed. The committee's report also included commentary encouraging Queensland Health to continue its engagement with stakeholders regarding the departmental standard for tattoo ink and associated legislative requirements contained in the bill.¹⁰

The Treasurer acknowledged the committee's report and recommendation during the Second Reading Debate on the bill on 25 May 2021, and advised that he would be seeking to remove the provisions relating to the regulation of tattoo ink from the bill.¹¹ The Minister for Health and Ambulance Services later advised that the omission of the tattoo ink requirements would allow Queensland Health 'to

⁶ Hon Cameron Dick MP, Treasurer and Minister for Investment (Treasurer), Record of Proceedings, 23 February 2021, pp 32-33, 37-38.

⁷ The bill was declared urgent under Standing Order 137, which provides for bills to be declared urgent and be subject to expedited passage through the various stages of parliamentary consideration. This includes providing, under SO 137(1), for the House 'to refer an urgent Bill to a portfolio committee to report to the House for a period of less than 6 weeks'. The committee was given approximately 4 and a half weeks to undertake its inquiry and report back to the Parliament on the bill.

⁸ Economics and Governance Committee, *Report No. 6, 57th Parliament – COVID-19 Emergency Response and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021*, April 2021, pp 26, 42.

⁹ Hon Shannon Fentiman MP, Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women, and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence (Attorney-General), 20 April 2021, pp 926-928.

¹⁰ Economics and Governance Committee, *Report No. 8, 57th Parliament – Debt Reduction and Savings Bill 2021*, February 2021, p 45.

¹¹ Treasurer, Record of Proceedings, 25 May 2021, pp 1502-1505; 1507-1508.

undertake further consultation with industry stakeholders before any amendments are progressed' and potentially seek 'uniformity on this important issue at the national level'.¹²

The bill was passed with amendments (including the removal of the tattoo ink provisions) on 27 May 2021.

3.1.4 Bills under consideration as at 30 June 2021

During the reporting period, the committee also commenced consideration of the:

- Public Health and Other Legislation (Further Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2021
- Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2021 and Appropriation Bill 2021 (2021-22 Appropriation Bills).

The Public Health and Other Legislation (Further Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill 2021 was introduced on 16 June 2021 and referred to the committee for its consideration on 18 June 2021, with the committee required to report to the Assembly on the bill by 6 August 2021. As at 30 June 2021, the committee had invited written submissions on the bill and scheduled inquiry proceedings for early in the new financial year.

The 2021-22 Appropriation Bills were also introduced on 16 June 2021 and referred to the committee on 18 June 2021. The committee was required to investigate and report on the 2021-22 budget estimates within the committee's portfolio areas, as set out in the bills, by 20 August 2021. As at 30 June 2021, the committee had provided the Speaker and each of its portfolio Ministers with questions on notice to be answered prior to the estimates hearing, which was scheduled for 16 July 2021 (in the new financial year).

3.2 Examination of subordinate legislation

During the reporting period, the committee tabled 5 reports canvassing its consideration of 13 items of subordinate legislation within its portfolio areas, in accordance with its responsibilities under section 93 of the POQA. The committee's reports were as follows:

- *Report No. 1, 57th Parliament – Subordinate legislation tabled between 17 June 2020 and 14 July 2020* (Report No. 1), tabled on 30 November 2020
- *Report No. 4, 57th Parliament – Subordinate legislation tabled between 15 July 2020 and 8 September 2020* (Report No. 4), tabled on 22 February 2021
- *Report No. 5, 57th Parliament – Subordinate legislation tabled between 9 September 2020 and 26 November 2020* (Report No. 5), tabled on 22 February 2021
- *Report No. 7, 57th Parliament – Subordinate legislation tabled between 27 November 2020 and 23 March 2021* (Report No. 7), tabled on 28 April 2021
- *Report No. 9, 57th Parliament – Subordinate legislation tabled between 24 March 2021 and 20 April 2021* (Report No. 9), tabled on 14 June 2021.

3.2.1 Subordinate legislation tabled between 17 June 2020 and 14 July 2020 (Report No. 1)

Report No. 1, tabled on 30 November 2020, outlined the committee's findings with respect to the following subordinate legislation:

- SL No. 97 of 2020 – Superannuation (State Public Sector) Amendment Notice (No. 1) 2020
- SL No. 113 of 2020 – Mutual Recognition (Queensland) (WA Container Deposit Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2020
- SL No. 114 of 2020 – Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition (Queensland) (WA Container Deposit Scheme) Notice 2020

¹² Hon Yvette D'Ath MP, Minister for Health and Ambulance Services, Record of Proceedings, 25 May 2021, p 1517.

- SL No. 115 of 2020 – Public Service (Rulings and Other Matters) Amendment Regulation 2020
- SL No. 116 of 2020 – Revenue Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2020.

The committee did not identify any significant policy issues or issues relating to FLPs, human rights compatibility, or the lawfulness of the subordinate legislation. The committee considered a potential human rights issue raised by SL No. 115 of 2020, but concluded that the identified limitation on human rights was reasonable and demonstrably justifiable.

The committee also considered that the explanatory notes tabled with the subordinate legislation complied with the requirements of section 4 of the LSA, and that the accompanying human rights certificates provided a sufficient level of information to facilitate understanding of the subordinate legislation in relation to its compatibility with human rights.

3.2.2 Subordinate legislation tabled between 15 July 2020 and 8 September 2020 (Report No. 4)

Report No. 4, tabled on 22 February 2021, outlined the committee’s findings with respect to SL No. 160 of 2020 – the Statutory Instruments (Exemptions from Expiry) Amendment Regulation 2020.

The committee did not identify any significant policy issues or issues relating to FLPs, human rights compatibility, or the lawfulness of the subordinate legislation.

The committee considered that the explanatory notes and human rights certificate tabled with the regulation respectively complied with the requirements of section 4 of the LSA and provided a sufficient level of information to facilitate understanding of the regulation in relation to its compatibility with human rights.

3.2.3 Subordinate legislation tabled between 9 September 2020 and 26 November 2020 (Report No. 5)

Report No. 5, tabled on 22 February 2021, advised of the committee’s findings with respect to:

- SL No. 217 of 2020 – Superannuation (State Public Sector) Amendment of Deed Regulation (No. 2) 2020
- SL No. 218 of 2020 – Major Events (T20 World Cup) Repeal Regulation 2020
- SL No. 228 of 2020 – Superannuation (State Public Sector) Amendment Notice (No. 2) 2020
- SL No. 247 of 2020 – Public Service (Public Service Offices and Other Matters) Amendment Regulation 2020.

The committee did not identify any significant policy issues or issues relating to FLPs, human rights compatibility, or the lawfulness of the subordinate legislation.

The committee considered that the explanatory notes tabled with these 4 items of subordinate legislation complied with the requirements of section 4 of the LSA, and that the accompanying human rights certificates provided a sufficient level of information to facilitate understanding of the subordinate legislation in relation to its compatibility with human rights.

3.2.4 Subordinate legislation tabled between 27 November 2020 and 23 March 2021 (Report No. 7)

Report No. 7, tabled on 28 April 2021, advised of the committee’s findings with respect to SL No. 18 of 2021 – the First Home Owner Grant and Other Home Owner Grants Regulation 2021, and SL No. 19 of 2021 – the Land Tax Regulation 2021.

The committee did not identify any significant policy issues or issues relating to FLPs, human rights compatibility, or the lawfulness of the subordinate legislation.

The committee considered that the explanatory notes tabled with the 2 items of subordinate legislation complied with the requirements of section 4 of the LSA and that the tabled human rights

certificates provided a sufficient level of information to facilitate understanding of the regulations in relation to their compatibility with human rights.

3.2.5 Subordinate legislation tabled between 24 March 2021 and 20 April 2021 (Report No. 9)

Report No. 9, tabled on 14 June 2021, outlined the committee’s findings with respect to SL No. 22 of 2021 – the Motor Accident Insurance and Other Legislation (Administration Fee and Levies) Amendment Regulation 2021.

The committee did not identify any significant policy issues or issues relating to FLPs, human rights compatibility, or lawfulness of the subordinate legislation.

The committee considered that the explanatory notes and human rights certificate tabled with SL No. 22 of 2021 respectively complied with the requirements of section 4 of the LSA and provided a sufficient level of information to facilitate understanding of the amendment regulation in relation to its compatibility with human rights.

4 Consideration of Queensland Audit Office Reports to Parliament

During the reporting period, the committee was referred 4 Auditor-General reports for consideration, in accordance with Standing Order 194B. The committee also considered 2 Auditor-General reports that were referred to the the Economics and Governance Committee of the 56th Parliament (former committee), having agreed to recommence the former committee's consideration of those reports.

4.1.1 Queensland Audit Office Report to Parliament No. 10: 2019-20—Effectiveness of the State Penalties Enforcement Registry ICT reform

The Auditor-General's report titled *Auditor General Report No. 10: 2019-20—Effectiveness of the State Penalties Enforcement Registry ICT reform* was tabled and referred to the former committee on 6 February 2020. The former committee's consideration of the report, which was ongoing when the Parliament was dissolved by proclamation dated 6 October 2020, ultimately lapsed at that time. The committee agreed to recommence the former committee's consideration of the report on 22 February 2021.

The report outlines the results of a performance audit of the information and communications technology (ICT) aspect of the State Penalties Enforcement Registry Reform Program, which was commenced after the Under Treasurer alerted the Auditor-General to concerns about a series of delays in the delivery of the ICT project.

As at 30 June 2021, the committee's consideration of the report was ongoing.

4.1.2 Queensland Audit Office Report to Parliament No 2: 2020-21—Effectiveness of audit committees in state government entities

The Auditor-General's report titled *Auditor General Report No. 2: 2020-21—Effectiveness of audit committees in state government entities* was tabled on 8 September 2020 and referred to the former committee on 10 September 2020. The former committee's consideration of the report, which was ongoing when the Parliament was dissolved by proclamation dated 6 October 2020, ultimately lapsed at that time. The committee agreed to recommence the former committee's consideration of the report on 22 February 2021.

The report is an Auditor-General's insights report, which outlines the findings of a review which identified key elements that contribute to the effectiveness of state public sector audit committees, and set out a series of actions and advice on improvements to governance for entities' consideration.

As at 30 June 2021, the committee's consideration of the report was ongoing.

4.1.3 Queensland Audit Office Report to Parliament No. 3: 2020-21—Queensland Government response to COVID-19

The Auditor-General's report titled *Auditor-General Report No. 3: 2020-21—Queensland Government response to COVID-19* was tabled on 22 September 2020 and referred to the committee on 3 December 2020.

The report is a topic overview report summarising the various measures announced by the Queensland Government in response to the COVID-19 pandemic over the period from 25 January 2020 to 21 August 2020, and the total cost of those measures to government.

As at 30 June 2021, the committee's consideration of the report was ongoing.

4.1.4 Queensland Audit Office Report to Parliament No. 6: 2020-21—Awarding of sports grants

The Auditor-General's report titled *Auditor-General Report No. 6: 2020-21—Awarding of sports grants* was tabled on 29 September 2020 and referred to the committee on 3 December 2020.

The report is an information brief outlining the findings of the Queensland Audit Office (QAO) in its examination of sports grants in Queensland awarded by the Department of Housing and Public Works between 1 July 2017 and 29 February 2020.

As at 30 June 2021, the committee's consideration of the report was ongoing.

4.1.5 Queensland Audit Office Report to Parliament No. 13: 2020-21—State entities 2020

The Auditor-General's report titled *Auditor-General Report No. 13: 2020-21—State entities 2020* was tabled on 11 February 2021 and referred to the committee on 26 February 2021.

The report summarises the results of the QAO's 2019-20 financial audits of Queensland state government entities, including the 22 government departments.

As at 30 June 2021, the committee's consideration of the report was ongoing.

4.1.6 Queensland Audit Office Report to Parliament No. 15: 2020-21—State finances 2020

The Auditor-General's report titled *Auditor-General Report No. 15: 2020-21—State finances 2020* was tabled on 18 March 2021 and referred to the committee on 25 March 2021.

The report is a financial audit report analysing the consolidated financial position of the Queensland Government.

As at 30 June 2021, the committee's consideration of the report was ongoing.

5 Monitoring and oversight

5.1 Oversight of the Auditor-General

The committee has responsibility under the *Auditor-General Act 2009* and under Schedule 6 and SO 194A of the Standing Orders for oversight of the Queensland Auditor-General. The committee's role is to:

- monitor and review the Auditor-General's and QAO's performance of their functions
- report to the Legislative Assembly on:
 - any matter concerning the Auditor General or the QAO, their functions, or their performance of those functions that the committee considers should be drawn to the attention of the Legislative Assembly, and
 - any changes to the functions, structures and procedures of the QAO that are desirable for more effective operation of the QAO or the *Auditor-General Act 2009*
- examine the annual report of the QAO and, if appropriate, comment on any aspect of the report
- examine each report on the 5-yearly strategic review of the QAO and, if appropriate, comment on any aspect of the strategic review report and make recommendations.¹³

As part of this role, the committee must be consulted on the QAO's strategic audit plan, the proposed budget for the QAO for each financial year, and the 5-yearly strategic review of the QAO, including the terms of reference and the appointment of the strategic reviewer.¹⁴ The committee must also be consulted on the selection process for, and appointment of, the Auditor-General, and any motion to remove or suspend the Auditor-General.¹⁵

5.1.1 Oversight activities during 2020-21

In March 2021, the Auditor-General contacted the committee to invite portfolio committee feedback on the QAO's draft Strategic Audit Plan 2021-24, setting out a proposed list of audit topics for the period from 2021 to 2024. In April 2021, the committee provided the Auditor-General with collated feedback from portfolio committees. The Auditor-General later confirmed that he had considered the committees' feedback, with the final *Strategic Audit Plan 2021-24* having been published on the QAO website on 26 May 2021, along with an acquittal of all changes and differences between the current and prior year strategic audit plans.

Across the reporting period, the committee also considered various correspondence from the Auditor-General providing updates on the QAO's activities, including additions and changes to the strategic audit plan to reflect emerging and topical issues, and other QAO initiatives and developments.

In November 2020 and March 2021, the Treasurer wrote to the committee as per the requirement under section 21(3) of the *Auditor-General Act 2009* for the Treasurer to consult with the committee in developing the proposed budget of the QAO for each financial year (in respect of the 2020-21 and 2021-22 financial years).¹⁶

Further, the committee also:

- considered the QAO's 2019-20 annual report, tabled on 30 September 2020
- held a public briefing with the Auditor-General on 29 March 2021, to assist in the committee's monitoring and oversight of the Auditor-General's functions.

¹³ *Auditor-General Act 2009*, ss 68, 70; Standing Orders, SO 194A.

¹⁴ *Auditor-General Act 2009*, ss 38A(2)-(5), 21(3), 68(5).

¹⁵ *Auditor-General Act 2009*, ss 9(2)(b); 18(3)(c)-(d).

¹⁶ Owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020-21 Queensland Budget was delayed and brought down on 1 December 2020, following the state general election on 31 October 2020.

During the public briefing, the committee asked questions and received advice on reported information in the QAO's 2019-20 annual report, the QAO's new practice of publishing summaries of requests for audits from Members of Parliament and councillors, the QAO's performance audit methodology and changes to audit reporting, the implementation of the outstanding recommendations of the 5-year strategic review, and other matters.

5.2 Oversight of the Integrity Commissioner

The committee has a responsibility under the *Integrity Act 2009* and under Schedule 6 and SO 194A of the Standing Orders for oversight of the QIC. The committee's role is to:

- monitor and review the QIC's performance of the functions of the office
- report to the Legislative Assembly on:
 - any matter concerning the QIC, their functions, or the performance of their functions that the committee considers should be drawn to the attention of the Legislative Assembly
 - any changes to the functions, structures and procedures of the QIC that are desirable for more effective operation of the QIC or the *Integrity Act 2009*
- examine the annual report of the QIC and, if appropriate, comment on any aspect of the report and make recommendations
- examine each report on the 5-yearly strategic review of the QIC, and if appropriate, comment on any aspect of the strategic review report and make recommendations.¹⁷

As part of this role, the committee is required to be consulted on:

- a lobbyists code of conduct (before the QIC can approve the code)¹⁸
- the appointment of a reviewer and the terms of reference for each 5-yearly review of the QIC¹⁹
- the appointment of the QIC, and any motion to remove or suspend the QIC.²⁰

5.2.1 Oversight activities during 2020-21

In January 2021, the Premier wrote to the committee to consult on the terms of reference and appointment of the reviewer for the 5-yearly strategic review of the QIC, in accordance with the requirements of section 86 of the *Integrity Act 2009*; with the committee responding to the Premier in turn.

In June 2021, the committee met privately with the strategic reviewer, Mr Kevin Yearbury, to provide input into the strategic review.

During the reporting period, the committee also considered the QIC's 2019-20 annual report, which was tabled on 30 September 2020, and held a private briefing with the QIC on 15 June 2021.

¹⁷ *Integrity Act 2009*, ss 88, 89; Standing Orders, SO 194A.

¹⁸ *Integrity Act 2009*, s 68(1). The current version of the Lobbyists Code of Conduct took effect from 12 September 2013.

¹⁹ *Integrity Act 2009*, s 86(6). The committee must be consulted on these matters before a reviewer is appointed.

²⁰ *Integrity Act 2009*, ss 74, 82.

6 Committee expenditure

The committee had no revenue during 2020-2021. The committee is funded from the appropriation made to the Legislative Assembly. The expenditure of the committee from 26 November 2020 to 30 June 2021 is shown in the table below.

Item	\$
Staff salaries and related expenses ²¹	205,786
Printing and supplies	1,567
Legal advice	10,040
Technology costs	3,340
Meeting expenses and miscellaneous	9,341
Expenditure Total	230,074

²¹ These figures reflect a 3 person secretariat supporting the committee. The committee's staffing may have been supplemented with additional resources from general Committee Office staff throughout the year.

7 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 member's illness or inability to attend, another member may be appointed to attend that meeting or stand in for a particular inquiry.

Meeting Date	Activity type: PM private meeting PrH private hearing PH public hearing PrB private briefing PB public briefing	Linus Power MP	Ray Stevens MP	Michael Crandon MP	Melissa McMahon MP	Daniel Purdie MP	Adrian Tantari MP
30 November 2020	PM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
7 December 2020	PM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
7 December 2020	PH ²²	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
15 December 2020	PM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
20 January 2021	PM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
8 February 2021	PM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
22 February 2021	PM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
8 March 2021	PM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
12 March 2021	PM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
22 March 2021	PM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
22 March 2021	PB ²³	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
29 March 2021	PM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓ ²⁴
29 March 2021	PH ²⁵	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓ ²⁶
29 March 2021	PB ²⁷	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓ ²⁸

²² Public hearing – Estimates 2019-2020.

²³ Public briefing – COVID-19 Emergency Response and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021.

²⁴ Member for Nicklin appointed under Standing Order 202(1) as a substitute for the Member for Hervey Bay.


²⁵ Public hearing – COVID-19 Emergency Response and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021.

²⁶ Member for Nicklin appointed under Standing Order 202(1) as a substitute for the Member for Hervey Bay.

²⁷ Public briefing – Oversight of the Auditor-General.

²⁸ Member for Nicklin appointed under Standing Order 202(1) as a substitute for the Member for Hervey Bay.

Meeting Date	Activity type: PM private meeting PrH private hearing PH public hearing PrB private briefing PB public briefing	Linus Power MP	Ray Stevens MP	Michael Crandon MP	Melissa McMahon MP	Daniel Purdie MP	Adrian Tantari MP
9 April 2021	PM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
12 April 2021	PM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
12 April 2021	PB ²⁹	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
19 April 2021	PM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
27 April 2021	PM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
27 April 2021	PH ³⁰	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
10 May 2021	PM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
12 May 2021	PM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
24 May 2021	PM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
14 June 2021	PM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
15 June 2021	PM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
15 June 2021	PrB ³¹	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
22 June 2021	PM	✓	✓	✓	x	✓	✓



Linus Power MP

Chair

September 2021

²⁹ Public briefing – Debt Reduction and Savings Bill 2021.

³⁰ Public hearing – Debt Reduction and Savings Bill 2021.

³¹ Private briefing – Oversight of the Integrity Commissioner.