



QUEENSLAND PARLIAMENT

COMMITTEES

Annual Report 2022-23



Report No. 41, 57th Parliament
Transport and Resources Committee
October 2023

Transport and Resources Committee

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Deputy Chair	Mr Lachlan Millar MP, Member for Gregory
Members	Mr Bryson Head MP, Member for Callide
	Mr James Martin MP, Member for Stretton (to 24 August 2023)
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Chair's foreword

This report details the activities of the Transport and Resources Committee from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023.

In accordance with section 108 of the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*, this report 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 who have contributed to the work of the committee during this 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.



Shane King MP

Chair

Report in brief

In the 2022-23 financial year, the Transport and Resources Committee:

 examined 5 bills	 held 16 public inquiries	 reviewed 29 pieces of subordinate legislation
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The committee’s examination of bills included proposals to:

- improve road safety, increase the range of allowable motorised mobility devices, make improvements to court and other processes and make minor enhancements to transport and other legislation¹
- provide for exceptions to direct employment requirements for coal mining statutory positions, and to enable implementation of a key action in the draft Queensland Resources Industry Development Plan²
- increase two-fold all penalties for non-compliance by liable fuel retailers liable with the State’s bio-based petrol mandate³
- provide a clear regulatory assessment pathway to authorise the construction and operation of pipelines for hydrogen and hydrogen carriers in Queensland⁴
- modernise the existing tow truck industry legislation by introducing a new structure and terminology that improves consistency across accreditations administered by the Department of Transport and Main Roads.⁵

Following its consideration of these bills, the committee recommended that 4 be passed and one not be passed. It also made:

- recommendations to amend one bill and its explanatory notes
- recommendations to amend the statement of compatibility of 2 bills.

In addition to scrutinising legislation, the committee conducted 4 self-referred inquiries during 2022-23. These included completing ongoing public works inquiries into the Sumners Road Upgrade Project and the Peninsula Development Road (Laura to Weipa) Project, as well as commencing an inquiry into the state controlled roads from Birdsville to Bedourie and Birdsville to Windorah. The committee also completed its inquiry into the economic and regulatory frameworks for Queensland island resorts that had commenced during the previous reporting period.

In August 2022, the committee examined portfolio budget estimates for 2022-23. The committee also considered 5 Auditor-General reports.

The committee’s total expenditure for the year was \$450,922.

¹ Transport Legislation (Road Safety and Other Matters) Amendment Bill 2022.
² Coal Mining Safety and Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022.
³ Liquid Fuel Supply (Minimum Biobased Petrol Content) Amendment Bill 2022
⁴ Gas Supply and Other Legislation (Hydrogen Industry Development) Amendment Bill 2023.
⁵ Tow Truck Bill 2023.

1 Functions of the committee

The Transport and Resources Committee (committee) is a portfolio committee responsible for:

- Transport, Main Roads and Digital Services
- Energy, Renewables, Hydrogen, Public Works and Procurement
- Resources.⁶

The committee has a broad range of responsibilities within its portfolio area, as detailed in Figure 1 below. These responsibilities are set out in the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*.⁷

Figure 1: Committees are responsible for oversight of many matters within their portfolio areas



2 Overview of committee activities

In 2022-23, the committee undertook considerable engagement with stakeholders who made submissions to its inquiries. As detailed in Table 1, which summarises the activities of the committee in the last financial year, the committee heard from 109 witnesses across 15 public hearings, 11 public briefings and 2 private meetings. The evidence provided by these witnesses was invaluable and helped the committee to complete its other tasks, including the 5 bill inquiries undertaken in 2022-23.

Members' attendance at committee meetings, hearings and briefings is set out in **Appendix A** at the back of this report.

The committee's reports tabled during 2022-23 are available from the committee's webpage: www.parliament.qld.gov.au/trc.

⁶ Responsibility for Digital Services was shifted from the Community Support and Services Committee to the Transport and Resources Committee on 23 May 2023.

⁷ Sections 92-94.

Table 1: Committee activities, by type, 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023

Activity	Number
Deliberative meetings	22
Public briefings	11
Private briefings	2
Public hearings – Brisbane	9
Public hearings – regional Queensland	6
Witnesses questioned at private and public briefings and hearings	109
Inquiry submissions received	48
Bill inquiries	5
Pieces of subordinate legislation examined	29
Public works inquiries	3
Public account inquiries, including examination of portfolio budget estimates	1
Annual reports of portfolio entities examined	3
Auditor-General reports examined	5
Inquiries referred by the Legislative Assembly	1
Inquiries into other matters (self-referred)	1
Reports tabled	17

3 Examination of budget estimates

The committee was responsible for examining the 2022-23 budget estimates for its portfolio areas, which totalled \$11.898 billion.⁸

The committee held its estimates hearing on 2 August 2022 with the relevant portfolio ministers.

The committee recommended that the proposed expenditure as detailed in the Appropriation Bill 2022 for the committee's areas of responsibility be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly without amendment.

The Legislative Assembly passed the Appropriation Bill 2022, without amendment, on 17 August 2022.

⁸ Appropriation Bill 2022, pp 6-7.

4 Bill inquiries

When it examines legislation, the committee is responsible for considering:

- the policy to which it gives effect
- whether it complies with basic standards for laws, known as fundamental legislative principles
- whether it is compatible with the human rights of people in Queensland
- whether subordinate legislation is lawful.

The committee conducted 5 bill inquiries during the year. As shown in Table 2, the committee made various recommendations in relation to the bills it considered. Government responses to recommendations made by the committee are noted in the discussions of each inquiry below.

Table 2: Bills examined by the committee, 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023

Bill	Report no.	Recommendations
Transport Legislation (Road Safety and Other Matters) Amendment Bill 2022	19	1
Coal Mining Safety and Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022	25	6
Liquid Fuel Supply (Minimum Biobased Petrol Content) Amendment Bill 2022	32	2
Gas Supply and Other Legislation (Hydrogen Industry Development) Amendment Bill 2023	36	1
Tow Truck Bill 2023	39	4

4.1 Transport Legislation (Road Safety and Other Matters) Amendment Bill 2022 (Report 19)

The Bill's primary objectives were to improve road safety, increase the range of allowable motorised mobility devices, make improvements to court and other processes and make minor enhancements to transport and other legislation.

The committee made one recommendation, that the Bill be passed.

The bill was passed on 31 August 2022.

4.2 Coal Mining Safety and Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 (Report 25)

The main objectives of the Bill were:

- Safety and health - to provide for exceptions to direct employment requirements for coal mining statutory positions contained in the *Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999*
- Resources - to enable implementation of a key action in the draft Queensland Resources Industry Development Plan, as well as several housekeeping amendments to some Acts in the Resources portfolio to address operational issues and correct clerical errors.

The committee recommended that:

- clarification be provided by the Minister of which will enforce compliance with the exceptions to direct employment provisions contained in the Bill

- the Minister further consider the application of the associated entity exception to the direct employment requirement for Electrical Engineering Manager and Mechanical Engineering Manager roles
- the Minister revisit the percentage threshold for the exception for direct employment requirements for entities who employ at least 80 per cent of workers at a coal mine
- the explanatory notes be amended to identify a greater number of issues in its discussion of consistency with fundamental legislative principles. For example, several potential issues of fundamental legislative principle were not identified as such, including clause 12 (inserting new section 324 in the *Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999*) and clause 23 (inserting new section 291 in the *Mineral Resources Act 1989*)
- the statement of compatibility be amended to include a discussion of the engagement of the right to property resulting from clause 12 of the Bill.

The government tabled its response to the committee's report on 8 November 2022, indicating its support for all recommendations.

The Bill was passed on 9 November 2022.

4.3 Liquid Fuel Supply (Minimum Biobased Petrol Content) Amendment Bill 2022 (Report 32)

The objectives of the Bill were to expand on the provisions enacted by the Liquid Fuel Supply (Ethanol and Other Biofuels Mandate) Amendment Bill 2015, by further amending the *Liquid Fuel Supply Act 1984* (the Act) for the following purposes:

1. To increase two-fold all penalties for non-compliance by liable fuel retailers liable with the State's bio-based petrol mandate, which presently sits at 4 per cent of the total volume of all petrol sold
2. To require that fuel retailers take reasonable action (on a continuing basis) to ensure that the bio-based petrol blended fuels (referred commonly to as E10) they sell contains a minimum of 9 per cent ethanol and is advertised as such.

The committee recommended that:

- the Bill not be passed
- the Minister consider promoting strategies to improve consumer confidence in fuels manufactured using renewable energy sources.

The government supported both committee recommendations.

The Bill remained before the House at the end of the financial year.

4.4 Gas Supply and Other Legislation (Hydrogen Industry Development) Amendment Bill 2023 (Report 36)

The Bill's primary objective was to provide a clear regulatory assessment pathway to authorise the construction and operation of pipelines for hydrogen and hydrogen carriers in Queensland. Hydrogen carriers could include ammonia, methanol, methyl-cyclohexane, dimethyl-ether and toluene in pipelines.

To achieve its objective, the Gas Supply and Other Legislation (Hydrogen Industry Development) Amendment Bill 2023 proposed to amend:

- the *Gas Supply Act 2003* to expand its jurisdiction to hydrogen blends biomethane and other gases

- the *Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004* to provide a clear and effective regulatory pathway for a proponent to apply for a pipeline license for the transmission of hydrogen and hydrogen carriers.

The committee recommended that the Bill be passed.

The Bill remained before the House at the end of the financial year.

4.5 Tow Truck Bill 2023

The Bill's objectives included to modernise and enhance elements of the *Tow Truck Act 1973*. The Bill was referred to the committee on 13 June 2023 with the committee required to table its report by 1 September 2023.

As the majority of work conducted for this inquiry occurred during 2023-24, the committee's activities, recommendations and the government response will be reported in the 2023-24 Annual Report.

The Bill remained before the House at the end of the financial year.

5 Other inquiries

The committee undertook 11 other inquiries during 2022-23 in relation to its public accounts, public works and other responsibilities.

5.1 Public accounts inquiries

The committee is responsible for assessing the public accounts of entities within its portfolio areas with regard to the economy, efficiency and effectiveness of financial management. This responsibility includes examination of government financial documents, including annual reports, and reports of the Auditor-General relevant to the committee's portfolio.⁹

5.1.1 Examination of portfolio entity annual reports

During the period covered by this report, the committee examined the 2021-22 annual reports for each of the 3 departments for which it has oversight responsibilities:

- Department of Transport and Main Roads
- Department of Resources
- Department of Energy and Public Works.

The committee questioned the Director-General of the Department of Transport and Main Roads on the department's 2021-22 annual report at a public briefing held on 27 March 2023. Issues discussed included:

- the Toowoomba Bypass, Coomera Connector, second Bruce Highway and Sunshine Coast heavy rail projects
- Cross River Rail
- personal mobility devices
- number of taxi licences and ride share vehicles
- Queensland's Zero Emission Vehicle Strategy 2022-2032.

The committee intends to take no further action in relation to this report.

The committee questioned officials from the Department of Resources on the department's 2021-22 annual report at a public briefing held on 17 April 2023. Issues discussed included:

⁹ *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001, s 94(1)*.

- Natural Resources Investment Program
- cobalt extraction from copper mine waste
- departmental assistance to drought affected areas
- vanadium common user facility in Townsville.

The committee intends to take no further action in relation to this report.

The committee intends to take no further action in relation to the Department of Energy and Public Works (DEPW) 2021-22 annual report.

5.1.2 Auditor-General reports

The committee's role includes consideration of reports of the Auditor-General that fall within its portfolio.¹⁰ The Auditor-General leads the Queensland Audit Office (QAO), which is the independent auditor of the public sector. It reports to parliament on the results of its audit work, providing insights and advice, and recommendations for improvement.

In the 2022-23 financial year, the committee considered 3 reports from the Auditor-General. During its consideration of these reports, it held 6 public briefings with officials from the QAO and relevant agencies.

As detailed in Table 3, the committee reported on 2 Auditor-General reports during the year. It reports on the remaining report in the section following.

Table 3: Auditor-General reports considered in 2022-23

Auditor-General report	Consideration completed/ongoing	Committee report no.	Committee recommendations
Report 5: 2021-22 - Managing Queensland's transition to renewable energy	completed	26	1
Report 18: 2021-22 - Enhancing Government Procurement	completed	28	1
Report 8: 2022-23 - Energy 2022	completed	-	-

5.1.2.1 Report No 5: 2021-22 – Managing Queensland's transition to renewable energy (Report No. 26, 57th Parliament)

Auditor-General Report No. 5: 2021-22 - Managing Queensland's transition to renewable energy was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 25 November 2021. This report presents the results of the QAO performance audit and was referred to the committee on 2 December 2021.

The Auditor-General made 5 recommendations. The government response to the Auditor-General's recommendations included in the report supported all recommendations with the timeframes for implementation ranging from 2021-22 to 2025-26.

The committee held a public briefing with officers from QAO on 14 March 2022 and a public briefing with officers from DEPW on 14 March 2022. The committee wrote to DEPW on 20 July 2022 seeking an update on the progress of implementation of the Auditor-General's recommendations. The response indicated that 3 recommendations had been completed and 2 recommendations were 'in progress'. A second public briefing with officers from DEPW was then held on 24 October 2022 where it was confirmed that the remaining 2 were now completed.

¹⁰ *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001, s 94(1).*

The committee tabled its report on 5 December 2022.

5.1.2.2 Report 18: 2021-22 - Enhancing Government Procurement (Report No. 28, 57th Parliament)

Auditor-General Report 18: 2021-22 - Enhancing Government Procurement was tabled on 14 June 2022 and referred to the committee on 24 June 2022. The Auditor-General's report examined government procurement (the process of purchasing goods and services) and how more effective processes can deliver better value for money and savings across government.

The Auditor-General made 5 recommendations addressed to Queensland Treasury and Queensland Government Procurement (within DEPW). In response to the Auditor-General's recommendations included in the report, the government supported all recommendations with timeframes for implementation ranging from Q2 2022-23 to Q4 2023-24.

The committee held a public briefing on the report with QAO officers on 15 August 2022. The committee then held a public briefing with officers from DEPW and Queensland Treasury on 29 August 2022.

The committee tabled its report on 16 December 2022.

5.1.2.3 Report 8: 2022-23 - Energy 2022

Auditor-General Report 8: 2022-23 – Energy 2022 summarised the audit results of Queensland's 6 energy entities. These entities generate (CleanCo, CS Energy, and Stanwell), transmit (Powerlink), and distribute (Energy Queensland) most of Queensland's electricity; and Ergon Energy Queensland is the electricity retailer for most customers in regional Queensland.

The audit found that:

- the financial statements of the energy entities are reliable and comply with relevant reporting requirements
- the energy entities had resolved a number of deficiencies identified in prior years. However, weaknesses in the entities' information systems continued to be identified. These mainly related to how user access is assigned and monitored, and in the upgrades to information systems
- the energy sector's total profits have decreased by \$147 million from 2020-21, which was largely due to losses incurred by generators.

The Auditor-General made one recommendation: for the energy entities to address the security of their information systems.

At a briefing on the report by the QAO held on 13 March 2023, the committee sought advice regarding:

- wholesale electricity prices per megawatt hour across the National Electricity Market
- cybersecurity attacks on the energy sector
- coal supply contracts to power generators.

In March 2023, the committee requested a briefing from the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) regarding the operation of the national energy market; however, AEMO declined the invitation. The committee intends to take no further action in relation to this report.

5.1.2.4 Other relevant Auditor-General considerations

The committee also considered the sections applicable to the committee's portfolio areas contained in the following 2 reports:

- Auditor-General Report No 4: 2022-23 - Status of Auditor-General's recommendations, tabled on 31 October 2022
- Auditor-General Report No 11: 2022-23 - State Entities 2022, tabled on 16 March 2023.

The committee advised the relevant parliamentary committees responsible for these Auditor-General reports that it had no issues with respect to the sections applicable to its portfolio areas.

5.2 Public works inquiries

The committee may consider public works undertaken by an entity that is a constructing authority¹¹ for the works, or consider any major works,¹² within its portfolio areas.

During 2022-23, the committee worked on 3 self-referred public works inquiries, these being:

- Inquiry into Sumners Road Upgrade Project
- Inquiry into Peninsula Development Road (Laura to Weipa) Project
- Inquiry into the state controlled roads from Birdsville to Bedourie and Birdsville to Windorah.

5.3 Inquiries into other matters

In relation to its portfolio areas, the committee may initiate an inquiry into any other matter it considers appropriate.¹³

5.3.1 Inquiry into the economic and regulatory frameworks for Queensland island resorts

On 21 February 2022, the committee resolved to conduct an inquiry into the economic and regulatory frameworks for Queensland island resorts. The inquiry's terms of reference are available on the committee's webpage. The inquiry continued into 2022-23 with the committee report tabled on 17 March 2023.

The committee received 52 written submissions as part of the inquiry, and during 2022-23 held 4 public hearings in Brisbane as well as regional hearings in Cairns, Airlie Beach, Mackay, Keswick Island and Yeppoon. The committee also conducted site visits on Hamilton Island, Keswick Island and the Keppel Islands.

On 24 October 2022, the committee resolved to extend the tabling date from 5 December 2022 to 6 March 2023 to seek additional information from witnesses and hold further hearings. These further hearings occurred in Brisbane on 9 November 2022 and 20 February 2023.

The committee tabled its report on 17 March 2023 (Report No. 31, 57th Parliament) and made 18 recommendations, which are detailed below:

- Recommendation 1: The Department of Resources should take immediate action to cancel tourism leases where lessees have been determined by departmental audit within the last three years to be noncompliant with lease conditions, subject to the requirements of natural justice.
- Recommendation 2: Local government should not approve or renew development applications by lessees who have been found to be non-compliant with lease conditions, where such non-compliance has been determined by departmental audit in the previous three years, subject to the requirements for natural justice.
- Recommendation 3: For cancelled tourism leases, consultations should commence with local residents and stakeholders around new expression of interest processes for remediation and rejuvenation of existing tourism infrastructure, activities authorised under current development approvals, and/ or alternative land uses.

¹¹ See *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*, s 96.

¹² See *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*, s 94.

¹³ *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*, s 92(1)(d).

- Recommendation 4: Legislative reform should be considered to provide appropriate enforcement tools to allow an effective response to breaches of lease conditions by tourism head lessees.
- Recommendation 5: The Minister should consider an interim review of the penalties and fines for non-compliance with lease conditions currently available under the *Land Act 1994* so they can become consistent with other contemporary compliance and enforcement regimes.
- Recommendation 6: Legislative reform should be considered to ensure fines – suitably proportionate to the gravity of the damage – are applied to tourism leaseholders who do not comply with public health and safety and environmental regulations at any point of their tenure as head lessee.
- Recommendation 7: The Minister should consider amending the *Land Act 1994* to separate the regulation of commercial state land uses (such as Great Barrier Reef island resorts) from agricultural, local council and not-for-profit trustee leases.
- Recommendation 8: The Minister should consider whether any lease dispute relating to commercial tourism leases under the *Land Act 1994* should be overseen by the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal as a commercial lease dispute.
- Recommendation 9: Research should be undertaken by relevant government departments to understand the market value of Great Barrier Reef island tourism leases at specified stages of their development.
- Recommendation 10: Legislative reform should be considered to ensure that appropriate rental contributions, tied to the market value of the tourism lease at its present state of development, are sought from current and future head lessees.
- Recommendation 11: Local councils should ensure that the rates category applied to offshore tourism resort lessees is equitable to that applied to mainland tourism resorts within their jurisdictions, and the additional financial burden that island operators carry for services that are otherwise provided by councils on the mainland, is reflected in the determination of that rates category.
- Recommendation 12: The Minister should consider allowing Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal dispute mechanisms to be accessed by sub-lessees of tourism leases or unit holders in tourism lease resorts.
- Recommendation 13: Legislative reform should be considered to ensure that functional common user infrastructure and services agreed to by head lessees of Great Barrier Reef island tourism leases is provided through specific lease conditions (e.g. code of conduct, minimum service standards) with programmed delivery dates that trigger specific performance requirements to avoid cancellation of the lease.
- Recommendation 14: Planning frameworks should be reviewed to ensure that a lessee's capacity to implement contemporary, leading practice disaster planning responses (including post-recovery removal or remediation of damaged infrastructure) is a pre-condition to grants or renewals of development applications for Great Barrier Reef island resorts.
- Recommendation 15: Planning frameworks should be reviewed to ensure that future Great Barrier Reef island tourism developments meet contemporary international sustainable development principles.
- Recommendation 16: Legislative reform should be considered to require bonds from future tourism lease head lessees to ensure that development happens in an approved timeframe, and that the State is not liable for meeting the costs of removal or remediation of any facilities or infrastructure that may remain at the end of a tourism lease. This bond should be tied to the approximate market value of the development at its final operational stage.

- Recommendation 17: The Minister should consider obtaining tripartite agreement between local, state and commonwealth governments to establish a full-service (one-stop shop) provider to coordinate all necessary approvals, permits and licences required to develop and operate a tourism lease on Great Barrier Reef island resorts.
- Recommendation 18: With specific reference to Double Island, the Department of Resources to publicly report by 30 June 2023 its findings in respect of the audit of the lessee's compliance with lease conditions, and proceed to take immediate action to cancel the lease if non-compliance continues.

The government tabled its response to the committee's report on 19 June 2023, indicating its support for all recommendations, excluding recommendations 2 and 11.

5.3.2 Inquiry into coal mining industry safety

On 18 August 2022 the Legislative Assembly agreed to a motion that the committee inquire and report on current practices and activities of the coal mining industry. The inquiry's terms of reference are available on the committee's webpage.

The committee received 24 written submissions as part of the inquiry and held 2 public hearings in Brisbane as well as a regional hearing in Moranbah. The committee received a departmental briefing and conducted site visits in Moranbah and Mackay.

The committee tabled its report on 16 February 2023 (Report No. 29, 57th Parliament). The committee made 11 recommendations, which are detailed below:

- Recommendation 1: Surface coal mine operators in Queensland report to Resources Safety and Health Queensland (RSHQ) regarding their implementation of all recommendations in the Queensland Coal Mining Board of Inquiry (BOI) reports which are relevant to surface operations by 30 June 2023, to allow RSHQ to review compliance with BOI recommendations by all Queensland coal mine operators.
- Recommendation 2: The Coal Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee (CMShAC) ensure that a genuinely tripartite consensus is arrived at regarding the full-time nature of the site safety and health representatives (SSHR) role at Queensland mine sites; industry should subsequently give full effect to the settled tripartite position.
- Recommendation 3: The Minister consider what forums and mechanisms can be used to improve the quality of tripartite communication around Queensland coal mining health and safety.
- Recommendation 4: The Coal Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee commission independent research into the impact of coal production rates on safety risk management in Queensland coal mines. Coal mine operators must facilitate sufficient access to, and protections for, members of their workforce who participate in this research.
- Recommendation 5: The Queensland Resources Council (QRC) lead indicators working group advance discussions on the appropriate use of safety metrics by industry in calculating employee bonuses, and provide a benchmarking report by end November 2023 to the CMShAC.
- Recommendation 6: The Minister consider reviewing the rate of the regulatory health and safety fee payable by coal mine operators to support an increase in resourcing to the coal mines inspectorate within RSHQ for an expanded compliance and enforcement program.
- Recommendation 7: RSHQ increase the number of unannounced inspections it undertakes at Queensland coal mines to 25% of all inspections by the 2023/24 financial year.
- Recommendation 8: The CMShAC review the terms of reference for its current study into coal mine safety reporting culture to additionally address the deficit of research around production

and safety conflicts, and reprisal against workers who raise safety issues, which we have raised in this report.

- Recommendation 9: The QRC ensure that its coal mine operator members proactively engage and supply data to assist with the research to be conducted by the CMSHAC. The QRC is to report on its website which coal mine operators have participated and data on each coal mine operator's participation (e.g. number of workforce engaged, employment basis of participants, work role of participants) by end November 2023.
- Recommendation 10: The Minister consider amendments proposed in the Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement strengthening protections against reprisal with a view to legislatively implementing them.
- Recommendation 11: Conduct genuinely tripartite Safety Reset sessions for the Queensland coal mine industry at least biannually, and preferably annually.

The government tabled its response to the committee's recommendations on 19 May 2023. Of the 4 recommendations that were directed towards the Minister and the Department of Resources, the government was broadly supportive and noted that additional advice and information had been sought from Resources Safety and Health Queensland regarding those matters.

6 Scrutiny of subordinate legislation

Subordinate legislation is legislation made by a department or other entity under powers given to them by an act of parliament. All subordinate legislation must be tabled in the Legislative Assembly, which can disallow it by resolution.¹⁴ To help it decide whether or not to do so, the Legislative Assembly refers each item of subordinate legislation to the relevant portfolio committee for consideration.

When examining subordinate legislation, each committee considers a range of matters, including:

- whether it has sufficient regard for basic standards for legislation, known as 'fundamental legislative principles'
- whether it is consistent with the human rights of people in Queensland
- whether the explanatory notes provide an adequate explanation of why the subordinate legislation is needed and what it does.

During the reporting period, the committee examined 29 pieces of subordinate legislation. As shown in Table 4, in the majority of cases, the committee did not identify any matters of concern regarding fundamental legislative principles or human rights.

Where it did, in each case the committee was satisfied that the subordinate legislation had sufficient regard for fundamental legislative principles, and any limitations of human rights were reasonable and justified in the circumstances.

¹⁴ *Statutory Instruments Act 1992*, ss 49 & 50.

Table 4: Portfolio subordinate legislation examined, 1 July 2022 - 30 June 2023

Report No.	Subordinate legislation	Matters identified		Explanatory notes adequate
		Fundamental legislative principles	Human rights	
21	National Energy Retail Amendment (Regulated stand-alone power systems) Rule 2022 (South Australia)	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No.2) 2022	3	1	✓
	Resources Legislation (Fee Unit Conversion) Amendment Regulation 2022	0	0	✓
	Transport Legislation (Fee Unit Conversion and Registration Fees) Amendment Regulation 2022	0	0	✓
	Building Amendment Regulation 2022	0	2	✓
	Resources Safety and Health Legislation (Fee Unit Conversion) Amendment Regulation 2022	0	0	✓
	Mining Legislation (Continuing Professional Development) Amendment Regulation 2022	0	0	✓
	Transport Legislation (Fees and Other Matters) Amendment Regulation 2022	0	0	✓
22	Energy and Public Works Legislation (Fee Unit Conversion) Amendment Regulation 2022	0	0	✓
	Resources Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2022	0	0	✓
	Geothermal Energy Regulation 2022	0	0	✓
	Energy and Water Ombudsman Regulation 2022	0	0	✓
27	Vegetation Management (Regional Ecosystems) Amendment Regulation 2022	0	0	✓
	Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2022	1	5	✓
	Land Title Regulation 2022	2	1	✓
	Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Amendment Regulation 2022	0	0	✓
	Gold Coast Waterways Authority Regulation 2022	0	0	✓
	Petroleum and Gas (Safety) Amendment Regulation 2022	0	0	✓

Report No.	Subordinate legislation	Matters identified		Explanatory notes adequate
		Fundamental legislative principles	Human rights	
30	Rail Safety National Law National Regulations (Fees and FOI) Amendment Regulations 2022 (South Australia)	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Transport Operations (Road Use Management - Road Rules) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2022	1	4	✓
34	Plumbing and Drainage and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2022	1	0	✓
	Petroleum and Gas (Safety) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2022	0	0	✓
	Transport Legislation Amendment Regulation 2023	3	1	✓
35	Valuation of Land (Fee Exemption) Amendment Regulation 2022	0	0	✓
	Heavy Vehicle (Vehicle Standards) National Amendment Regulation 2023	0	0	✓
	Proclamation No. 8 - Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) Act 2017 (commencing remaining provisions)	0	0	✓
	Proclamation No. 7 - Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) Act 2017 (repealing previous proclamation)	0	0	✓
	Proclamation No. 1 - Land and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2023 (commencing certain provisions)	0	0	✓
	Stock Route Management Regulation 2023	0	0	✓

7 Consideration of forms authorised by legislation

The committee's responsibilities include monitoring the operation of s 48 of the *Acts Interpretation Act 1954* in relation to legislation within its portfolio area. That section sets out a number of requirements for forms, including how forms must be notified and made available to the public.

During 2022-23, the committee considered 2 forms authorised by falling within its portfolio area and notified in the *Queensland Government Gazette*. These forms are listed in Table 5 below. The committee did not identify any issues of concern regarding these forms.

Table 5: Forms authorised by legislation examined, 1 July 2022 - 30 June 2023.

Form No.	Version	Form heading	Authorising law
M4705	V01 Nov 2022	Demand Notice for Non Payment of Toll - Queensland Registered Vehicle/Statutory Declaration Nomination	<i>Transport Infrastructure Act 1994</i>
M4706	V01 Nov 2022	Demand Notice for Non Payment of Toll - Interstate Registered Vehicle	<i>Transport Infrastructure Act 1994</i>

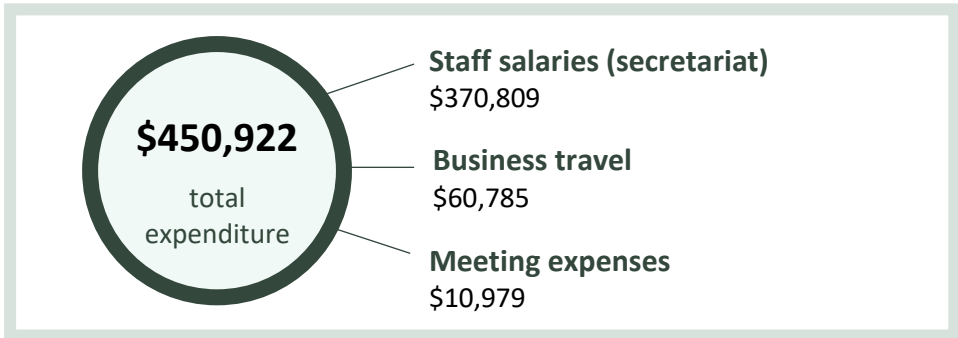
8 Committee expenditure

Committees are funded from the appropriation made to the Legislative Assembly and rarely generate revenue. After funding is allocated for the committee office as a whole, expenditure by individual committees is determined by their specific requirements and volume of work. Travel expenditure is subject to an additional approval process.

In 2022-23, the committee’s total expenditure was \$450,922. The committee did not receive any revenue.

Figure 2 below shows the 3 main areas of expenditure. As that figure illustrates, salaries for the secretariat staff that support the committee comprised the vast majority (just over 82 per cent) of the committee’s expenditure. The committee’s secretariat is a 3-person team, supplemented with additional resources from across the committee office as needed throughout the year.

Figure 2: Main areas of committee expenditure in 2022-23



After staffing expenses, committee travel was the most notable area of expenditure for the committee. The committee travelled to Cairns, Hamilton Island, Airlie Beach, Mackay, Keswick Island and Yeppoon in August 2022 as part of its *Inquiry the economic and regulatory frameworks for Queensland island resorts*.

As part of the committee’s inquiry into coal mining industry safety, the committee visited the Grosvenor Coal Mine in Moranbah and the Mining Resources Centre of Excellence in Mackay in November 2022.

The committee also visited the Renewable Biocommodities Pilot Plant in Mackay in November 2022 and the Road Safety Research Centre at the University of the Sunshine Coast in May 2023.

Meeting expenses, which primarily comprised catering expenses, were the third largest area of expenditure. Table 6 provides a more detailed breakdown of the committee’s expenditure for the year.

Table 6: Expenditure of the committee, 1 July 2022 - 30 June 2023

Item	\$
Employee expenses ¹⁵	370,809
Business travel	60,785
Meeting expenses ¹⁶	10,979
Technology	6,545
Printing, stationery and maintenance	1,704
Legal advice	100
Total expenditure	450,922

¹⁵ These figures reflect a 3-person secretariat supporting the committee. The committee's staffing might have been supplemented with additional resources from general committee office staff throughout the year.

¹⁶ Meeting expenses included water, catering, broadcasting costs.

Appendix A: Meeting attendance record

Table 7 below shows the attendance of committee members at private committee meetings (PrM), public briefings (PB), private briefings (PrB) and private hearings (PrH) and public hearings (PH) 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. The details of these appointments are included in the footnotes.

Table 7: Meeting attendance record, 1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023

Meeting Date	Activity	Shane King MP	Lachlan Millar MP	Bryson Head MP	James Martin MP	Les Walker MP	Trevor Watts MP
20 July 2022	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
2 August 2022	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2 August 2022	PH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
8 August 2022	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
15 August 2022	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
15 August 2022	PB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
15 August 2022	PH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
22 August 2022	PH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗ ¹⁷
23 August 2022	PH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗ ¹⁸
24 August 2022	PrB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
24 August 2022	PH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
25 August 2022	PH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
26 August 2022	PH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
29 August 2022	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
29 August 2022	PB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
29 August 2022	PH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗

¹⁷ Pat Weir MP replaced Trevor Watts MP under SO202(1).

¹⁸ Pat Weir MP replaced Trevor Watts MP under SO202(1).

Meeting Date	Activity	Shane King MP	Lachlan Millar MP	Bryson Head MP	James Martin MP	Les Walker MP	Trevor Watts MP
10 October 2022	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
14 October 2022	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
24 October 2022	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
24 October 2022	PB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
24 October 2022	PB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
24 October 2022	PB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✘
25 October 2022	PH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
1 November 2022	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2 November 2022	PH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
7 November 2022	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
9 November 2022	PH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
28 November 2022	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
28 November 2022	PH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
30 November 2022	PB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
16 December 2022	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
10 January 2023	PH	✓	✓	✘	✓	✓	✓
24 January 2023 ¹⁹	PrH	✓	✓	✘	✘	✘	✘
10 February 2023	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
20 February 2023	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
20 February 2023	PB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
13 March 2023	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
13 March 2023	PB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
13 March 2023	PH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

¹⁹ Subcommittee - Shane King MP, Lachlan Millar MP.

Meeting Date	Activity	Shane King MP	Lachlan Millar MP	Bryson Head MP	James Martin MP	Les Walker MP	Trevor Watts MP
16 March 2023	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
27 March 2023	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
27 March 2023	PB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6 April 2023	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
17 April 2023	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
17 April 2023	PB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
22 May 2023	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
25 May 2023	PB	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	✓
12 June 2023	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
19 June 2023	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
19 June 2023	PH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Legend: PrM private meeting PB public briefing
PrB private briefing PH public hearing
PrH private hearing