

Annual Report

2017-2018

Report No. 20, 56th Parliament

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural
Industry Development Committee**

November 2018

State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee

Chair	Mr Chris Whiting MP, Member for Bancroft
Deputy Chair	Mr Pat Weir MP, Member for Condamine
Members	Mr David Batt MP, Member for Bundaberg
	Mr James (Jim) Madden MP, Member for Ipswich West
	Mr Brent Mickelberg MP, Member for Buderim
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Acknowledgements

The committee acknowledges the assistance provided by the Department Natural Resources, Mines and Energy, the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning during the year.

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Chair's Forward

This report outlines the activities of the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee of the 56th Parliament from its commencement in February 2017 to June 2018.

The committee's portfolio areas of responsibility are very broad, as are the Acts administered in each portfolio area. Consequently, matters considered by this committee during the reporting period have ranged from vegetation management, Indigenous land use, land access for mining and energy supply and pricing.

On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank those individuals and organisations who have assisted the committee with its inquiries by providing submissions, appearing at public briefings and hearings and providing other information throughout the reporting period. I also thank our Parliamentary Service staff for their assistance.

I would also like to thank my fellow committee members for their continued commitment and dedication to ensuring the work of the committee was completed in a comprehensive and timely manner. I would also like to thank all the members of the secretariat, especially Dr Jacqui Dewar, for the dedicated manner in which they have served and assisted the committee.



Chris Whiting MP

Chair

1 State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee

The State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development 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 are:

- State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning
- Natural Resources, Mines, and Energy
- Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries.

2 Annual report

In accordance with section 108 of the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001* (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 15 February 2018 to 30 June 2018.

3 Inquiries and reports

The committee considered a number of issues and tabled ten reports during the 2017-2018 financial year. The committee's reports and inquiries are discussed below.

Copies of the committee's publications are available from the committee's webpage: www.parliament.qld.gov.au/SDNRAIDC.

3.1 Bill Inquiries

The committee examined a number of Bills and pieces of subordinate legislation in accordance with its responsibility under section 93(1) of the POQA. In particular, the committee considered:

- the policy to be given effect by the legislation
- the application of fundamental legislative principles to the legislation, and
- for subordinate legislation – its lawfulness.

3.1.1 Electricity and Other Legislation (Batteries and Premium Feed-in Tariff) Amendment Bill 2018 (Report No. 2)

The Electricity and Other Legislation (Batteries and Premium Feed-in Tariff) Amendment Bill 2018 was referred to the committee on 15 February 2018.

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

The former Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee considered a previous version of the Bill in the 55th Parliament. That committee was not able to report prior to the dissolution of Parliament on 29 October 2017.

During this Inquiry the committee:

- considered seven submissions
- held a public briefing on 5 March 2018
- tabled its report on 15 March 2018.

The committee made one recommendation: that the Electricity and Other Legislation (Batteries and Premium Feed-in Tariff) Amendment Bill 2018 be passed.

3.1.2 Mineral, Water and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 (Report No. 4)

The Mineral, Water and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 was referred to the committee on 15 February 2018. The committee was required to report to the Legislative Assembly by 9 April 2018.

A previous version of this Bill was introduced in the 55th Parliament and referred to the former Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee. That committee was not able to report prior to the dissolution of Parliament on 29 October 2017.

The committee's examination of the Bill included:

- consideration of 17 submissions
- a public briefing with the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy in Brisbane on 5 March 2018
- a public hearing in Brisbane on 9 March 2018.

The committee tabled its report on 9 April 2018 and made seven recommendations. The Government supported four of the recommendations made and noted three. Significantly, the Government agreed with the committee's recommendation that proposed s 91C be removed and that the Bill be amended so that parties have the right to legal representation during arbitration.

3.1.3 Land, Explosives and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 (Report No. 5)

The Land, Explosives and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 was referred to the committee on 15 February 2018.

A previous version of the Bill was introduced to the 55th Parliament and referred to the former Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee. That committee was not able to report prior to the dissolution of Parliament on 29 October 2017.

The committee's examination of the Bill included:

- consideration of 11 submissions
- a public briefing with the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy in Brisbane on 5 March 2018
- a public hearing in Cairns on 13 April 2018.

The committee was granted an extension by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly to the reporting date from 9 April 2018 to 19 April 2018. The extension was to allow the committee to hold a public hearing in Cairns on 13 April 2018.

The committee tabled its report on 19 April 2018 and made three recommendations. The Government accepted all of the committee's recommendations.

3.1.4 Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 (Report No. 6)

The Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 was introduced into the Legislative Assembly and referred to the committee on 8 March 2018.

The committee's examination of the Bill included:

- a public briefing with the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy in Brisbane on 19 March 2018
- public hearings in:
 - Brisbane – 23/03/2018
 - Rockhampton – 27/03/2018
 - Townsville – 27/03/2018
 - Cloncurry – 28/03/2018
 - Longreach – 29/03/2018
 - Charleville – 29/03/2018
 - Brisbane – 12/04/2018
 - Cairns – 13/04/2018.
- a site visit in Cloncurry – 28/03/2018
- consideration of the following submissions:
 - Substantive: 700 Approx.
 - Form: 15,000 Approx.

The committee tabled its report on 23 April 2018 and made eight recommendations in that report.

The Government accepted the committee's recommendations.



Committee public hearing at the Central Queensland Livestock Exchange, Rockhampton on 27 March 2018.



Public hearing at the Murweh Shire Council Town Hall, Charleville on 29 March 2018.

3.1.5 Vegetation Management (Clearing for Relevant Purposes) Amendment Bill 2018 (Report No. 14)

The Vegetation Management (Clearing for Relevant Purposes) Amendment Bill 2018 was referred to the committee on 21 March 2018. The Speaker, Hon. Curtis Pitt, ruled clause 4 of this Bill out of order as it offended the same question rule under Standing Order 87(1) on 17 May 2018.

The committee's examination of the Bill included consideration of two submissions and written advice from the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy. The committee reported to the Legislative Assembly on 3 September 2018.

The committee recommended that the Bill not be passed but that the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy examine the merits of providing an information notice to applicants under section 22A of the Vegetation Management Act 1999.

3.1.6 Subordinate legislation tabled between 9 August 2017 and 10 October 2017 (Report No. 1)

On 9 March 2018, the committee tabled Report No. 1: Subordinate legislation tabled between 9 August 2017 and 10 October 2017.

The report advised of the committee's findings with respect to the following subordinate legislation:

- Fisheries (Hammerhead Sharks) Amendment Regulation 2017 (SL No 135)
- Chemical Usage (Agricultural and Veterinary) Control Regulation 2017 (SL No 136)
- National Energy Retail Law (Queensland) (Solar for Public Housing Trial) Amendment Regulation 2017 (SL No 137)
- Planning and Other Legislation (South East Queensland Regional Plan and Other Matters) Amendment Regulation 2017 (SL No 141)
- Water Plan (Calliope River Basin – Postponement of Expiry) Notice 2017 (SL No 144)
- Economic Development (The Mill at Moreton Bay) Amendment Regulation 2017 (SL No 147)
- Explosives Regulation 2017 (SL No 150)
- Water Plan (Burdekin Basin – Postponement of Expiry) Notice 2017 (SL NO 159)
- Petroleum and Gas (General Provisions) Regulation 2017 (SL No 162)
- Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2017 (SL No 163)

- Water Plan (Great Artesian Basin and Other Regional Aquifers) 2017 (SL No 164)
- Coal Mining Safety and Health Regulation 2017 (SL No 165)
- Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Regulation 2017 (SL No 166)
- Electricity (Regional Feed-In Tariff) Amendment Regulation 2017 (SL No 178)
- Water Plan (Moreton) (Water Planning Framework Changes) Amendment Plan 2017 (SL No 199)
- Planning (Contaminated Land) Amendment Regulation 2017 (SL No 201)
- Aboriginal Land (Bollon USL and Eromanga USL) Amendment Regulation 2017 (SL No 203)
- Proclamation made under the Land and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2017 (SL No 204)
- Animal Care and Protection (Code of Practice for Breeding of Dogs) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2017 (SL No 208).

The committee did not identify any significant issues regarding policy, consistency with fundamental legislative principles or the lawfulness of the subordinate legislation.

3.1.7 Subordinate legislation tabled between 11 October 2017 and 24 October 2017 (Report No. 3)

On 26 March 2018, the committee tabled Report No. 3: Subordinate legislation tabled between 11 October 2017 and 24 October 2017.

The report advised of the committee's findings with respect to the following subordinate legislation:

- Proclamation made under the Strong and Sustainable Resource Communities Act 2017 (SL No 214).

The committee did not identify any significant issues regarding policy, consistency with fundamental legislative principles or the lawfulness of the subordinate legislation.

3.1.8 Subordinate legislation tabled between 25 October 2017 and 15 February 2018 (Report No. 7)

On 18 May 2018, the committee tabled Report No. 7: Subordinate legislation tabled between 9 August 2017 and 10 October 2017.

The report advised of the committee's findings with respect to the following subordinate legislation:

- Biosecurity (Melon Necrotic Spot Virus and Other Matters) Amendment Regulation 2017 (SL No 218)
- Planning (Community Residence) Amendment Regulation 2017 (SL No 222)
- Electricity (Voltage Limits) Amendment Regulation 2017 (SL 223)
- Economic Development (Herston Quarter PDA) Amendment Regulation 2017 (SL No 229)
- Electricity Legislation (Competition in Metering) Amendment Regulation 2018 (SL No 001)
- Biosecurity (Tomato/Potato Psyllid) Amendment Regulation 2018 (SL No 004).

The committee did not identify any significant issues regarding policy, consistency with fundamental legislative principles or the lawfulness of the subordinate legislation.

3.2 Consideration of Auditor-General reports

During 2017-18, the committee examined the following Auditor-General reports, pursuant to Standing Order 194B.

3.2.1 Consideration of the Queensland Audit Office Report to Parliament 5: Auditor-General 2017-18 Water: 2016-17 results of financial audits (Report No. 8)

The Auditor-General's report titled *Report to Parliament No. 5: 2017-18 – Water: 2016-17 results of financial audits*, was tabled on 14 December 2017 and referred to the committee for consideration. As

part of its Inquiry into the Auditor-General's report, the committee received a public briefing from the Queensland Audit Office on 14 May 2018. The committee tabled its report on the Auditor-General's report on 22 March 2018.

The committee's report considered the Auditor-General's findings in relation to its financial audits of the government's main water sector entities, including bulk water suppliers and distributor-retailers across south-east and regional Queensland. The committee made one recommendation that the Legislative Assembly note the contents of the report.

3.2.2 Consideration of the Queensland Audit Office Report to Parliament 9: Auditor-General 2017-18 Energy: 2016-17 results of financial audits (Report No. 9)

The Auditor-General's report titled *Report to Parliament No. 9: 2017-18 - Energy: 2016-17 results of financial audits*, was tabled on 20 February 2018 and referred to the committee for consideration. As part of its Inquiry into the Auditor-General's report, the committee received a public briefing from the Queensland Audit Office on 14 May 2018. The committee tabled its report on the Auditor-General's report on 18 June 2018.

The committee's report considered the Auditor-General's findings in relation to its financial audits of the government's main energy entities - Stanwell, CS Energy, Powerlink and Energy Queensland, including the entities controlled by these companies and the regulatory submissions to the Australian Energy Regulator for Energex and Ergon. The committee made one recommendation that the Legislative Assembly note the contents of the report.

3.2.3 Consideration of the Queensland Audit Office Report to Parliament 19: Auditor-General 2016-17 Security of critical water infrastructure (Report No. 11)

The Auditor-General's report titled *Report to Parliament No. 19: 2016-17 – Security of critical water infrastructure*, was tabled on 8 August 2017. The report was referred to the Public Works and Utilities Committee of the 55th Parliament.² That committee did not report before the dissolution of Parliament on 29 October 2017. The report was referred to the committee on 3 May 2018.³

During this Inquiry the committee received a public briefing on the Auditor-General's report from the Queensland Audit Office and the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy on 11 June 2018. The committee tabled its report on 19 July 2018. The committee made one recommendation that the Legislative Assembly note the contents of the report.

3.2.4 Consideration of the Queensland Audit Office Report to Parliament 16: Auditor-General 2015-16 Flood resilience of river catchments (Report No. 10)

The Auditor-General's report titled *Report to Parliament No. 16: 2015-16 – Flood resilience of river catchments*, was tabled on 19 April 2016. The report was referred to the Agriculture and Environment Committee of the 55th Parliament.⁴ As part of their Inquiry that committee held one public briefing and three public hearings, and received 10 submissions from a range of organisations. That committee did not report before the dissolution of Parliament on 29 October 2017. The report was referred to the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee on 3 May 2018.⁵

² Queensland Parliament, Record of Proceedings, 8 August 2017, p 2009.

³ Queensland Parliament, Record of Proceedings, 3 May 2018, p 1000.

⁴ Queensland Parliament, Record of Proceedings, 19 April 2016, p 1064.

⁵ Queensland Parliament, Record of Proceedings, 3 May 2018, p 1000.

During this Inquiry the committee received a public briefing on the Auditor-General's report from the Queensland Audit Office and the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy on 11 June 2018. The committee tabled its report on 19 July 2018. The committee made one recommendation that the Legislative Assembly note the contents of the report.

4 Committee expenditure

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

The following table outlines the committee's expenses during the reporting period:

Item	\$
Employee expenses ¹	122,228
Travel	38,656
Meeting expenses ²	3,724
Technology	3,215
Communications	1,595
Printing and supplies	836
Freight / Membership – other line/s as needed	-
EXPENDITURE TOTAL	170,254

^[1] The figure for employee expenses reflects a three-person secretariat supporting the committee. The committee's staffing may have been supplemented with additional resources from general Committee Office staff during the reporting period.

^[2] The figure for meeting expenses includes expenses for audio-visual broadcasting of meetings and hearings.

5 Meeting attendance record

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

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

Meeting Date	Activity	Jess Pugh	Jim Madden	Chris Whiting	Pat Wier	Brent Mickelberg	David Batt
19 February 2018	PM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
28 February 2018	PM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
5 March 2018	PM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
5 March 2018	PB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
9 March 2018	PM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
9 March 2018	PH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
13 March 2018	PM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
19 March 2018	PM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
19 March 2018	PB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
23 March 2018	PM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
23 March 2018	PH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
27 March 2018 ⁶	PH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
28 March 2018 ⁷	PH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
29 March 2018 ⁸	PH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
29 March 2018	PM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
5 April 2018	PM	✓	✓	✓	✓	x ⁹	✓
12 April 2018	PH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
13 April 2018	PH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
18 April 2018	PM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
20 April 2018	PM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
30 April 2018	PM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3 May 2018	PM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
14 May 2018	PM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
14 May 2018	PB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

⁶ Two public hearings held in Rockhampton and Townsville. Member for Rockhampton and the Member for Keppel attended in Rockhampton. Member for Hinchinbrook, the Member for Thuringowa, the Member for Burdekin and the Member for Townsville also attended in Townsville.

⁷ Held in Cloncurry. Member for Traeger also attended.

⁸ Two public hearings held in Charleville and Longreach. Member for Warrego, the Member for Callide and the Member for Gympie also attended in Charleville. Member for Gregory and the Member for Traeger also attended in Longreach.

⁹ Member for Nicklin appointed under Standing Order 202(1) for the Member for Buderim.

Meeting Date	Activity	Jess Pugh	Jim Madden	Chris Whiting	Pat Wier	Brent Mickelberg	David Batt
11 June 2018	PM	x ¹⁰	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
11 June 2018 ¹¹	PM	x ¹²	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
11 June 2018	PB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Legend:

PM private meeting

PH public hearing

PB public briefing

¹⁰ Member for Capalaba appointed under Standing Order 202(1) for the Member for Mount Ommaney.

¹¹ Meeting for 2018-19 budget estimates.

¹² Member for Capalaba appointed under Standing Order 202(1) for the Member for Mount Ommaney.