

2016-2017 Budget Estimates

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Correspondence relating to attendance of non-committee members

Letter from Mr Tim Nicholls MP, Leader of the Opposition

Letter from Mrs Jo-Ann Miller MP, Member for Bundamba

Letter from Mr Robbie Katter MP, Member for Mount Isa

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills

Pre-hearing Questions on Notice and Answers

Questions Taken on Notice at hearing and Answers

Copy of Documents tabled at hearing

- Advertisement for position on Jobs Queensland Board
- Extract from Queensland Economic Action Plan regarding Jobs Queensland
- Terms of Reference for Inquiry into 2016 local government elections, the referendum on fixed four-year terms and the by-election for the State Parliament seat of Toowoomba South
- Review of LG16 and Referendum Electoral Commission of Queensland
- Current and previous versions of Form 6 Property Occupations Act 2014
- Cairns Post article 19 July 2016 'Cairns judge raises concerns over case backlog'
- Clubs Qld list of clubs successfully merged or amalgamated

Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services

Pre-hearing Questions on Notice and Answers

Questions Taken on Notice at hearing and Answers

Copy of Documents tabled at the hearing

- Sunday Mail articles dated 29 May 2016 'Jailhouse Crock' and 'Labor Speeds Up Jail Exits'
- Extract Hansard 17 June 2016 page 2693
- Couriermail.com.au article 26 June 2016 'Prisoners Run Riot'
- Cairns Post article 17 May 2016 'Lotus Glen Corrections officers strike over fight for compensation
- Media Release, Hon Bill Byrne 'Overcrowding puts prison officers in danger'
- The Australian article 21 July 2016 'Stay out of talks, rural fireys warn union'



2016-2017 Budget Estimates

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Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services (continued)

- The Weekly times article 24 June 2016 Qld Government denies claims of plan to close auxiliary fire stations
- United Fire Fighters Union Queensland Code 2, Vol 30, No 30: 7 July 2016
- Email 18 May 2016 regarding weapons licence applications
- Courier Mail article dated 10 June 2016 'Inala police officers using bicycles because of car shortage'

Minutes





Wednesday 15 June 2016 9.42am

Venue: Committee Room 1, Level 6, Parliamentary Annexe

Present	Mr Mark Furner MP (chair) – by teleconference				
	Mr Michael Crandon MP (deputy chair)				
	Mr Jon Krause MP				
	Mr Don Brown MP				
	Ms Joan Pease MP				
	Ms Fiona Simpson MP (substituting for Mrs Jann Stuckey MP)				
Secretariat in Attendance	Mr Stephen Finnimore, Research Director Mr Gregory Thomson, Principal Research Officer				
Welcome and apologies	The meeting commenced at 9.42am. Mrs Jann Stuckey MP was an apology.				
2. Estimates	Prior to the meeting, committee members were provided with a draft inquiry timetable.				
	Resolved:				
	That the committee approve the draft inquiry schedule.				
	Moved: Mr Michael Crandon MP Seconded: Ms Joan Pease MP				
	Resolved:				
	nat the committee authorise the broadcast of proceedings in accordance with the andard conditions of broadcast used for estimates proceedings.				
	Moved: Ms Fiona Simpson MP Seconded: Mr Don Brown MP				
	Prior to the meeting, committee members were provided with a copy of a letter from the Leader of Opposition dated 20 May 2016 seeking leave for various members to attend to ask questions at the LACSC's estimates hearing.				
	Resolved:				
	That the committee grant leave to those Opposition members identified in the letter from the Leader of the Opposition dated 20 May 2016, to attend and ask questions at the LACSC's estimates hearing.				
	Moved: Mr Michael Crandon MP Seconded: Ms Joan Pease MP				

Prior to the meeting, committee members were provided with a draft hearing schedule.

Motion:

That the committee agree that its estimates hearing be extended to close at 8.00pm.

Moved: Mr Michael Crandon MP Seconded: Mr Jon Krause MP

AYES: Mr Michael Crandon MP, Mr Jon Krause MP, Ms Fiona Simpson MP

NOES: Mr Mark Furner MP, Mr Don Brown MP, Ms Joan Pease MP

The votes being equal, the motion failed.

Motion:

That the committee approve the draft hearing schedule.

Moved: Mr Mark Furner MP Seconded: Mr Don Brown MP

AYES: Mr Mark Furner MP, Mr Don Brown MP, Ms Joan Pease MP

NOES: Mr Michael Crandon MP, Mr Jon Krause MP, Ms Fiona Simpson MP

The votes being equal, the motion failed.

3. Close

The meeting closed at 10.03 am.

Certified to be correct on the 4th day of August 2016.

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Mark Furner MP

<u>Chair</u>



Monday 11 July 2016

Venue: Room A.31, Parliament House

	<u> </u>
Present	Mr Mark Furner MP (chair)
	Mr Michael Crandon MP (deputy chair)
	Mr Don Brown MP
	Ms Joan Pease MP
	Mrs Jann Stuckey MP
Secretariat in Attendance	Mr Stephen Finnimore, Research Director Mr Gregory Thomson, Principal Research Officer
1. Welcome and apologies	The meeting commenced at 10.50 am. Mr Jon Krause MP was an apology.
2. Estimates	Resolved:
	That the committee endorses the draft minutes of the meeting regarding estimates held on 15 June 2016 as a true record of that meeting.
	Moved: Mr Don Brown MP Seconded: Mr Michael Crandon MP
	The committee <u>confirmed</u> the following resolution regarding the 2016 estimates hearing schedule, previously agreed to in accordance with SO204A:
	That the committee agree to the attached hearing schedule for the committee's estimates hearing on Thursday 21 July 2016.
	Prior to the meeting, members were <u>provided</u> with a copy of an undated letter from Mrs Jo-Ann Miller MP seeking leave to appear at the committee's estimates hearing to ask questions of ministers in relation to their portfolios.
	Resolved:
	That the committee grant leave to Jo-Ann Miller MP to appear at the committee's estimates hearing to ask questions of ministers in relation to their portfolios.
	Moved: Mr Don Brown MP Seconded: Mrs Jann Stuckey MP
3. Close	The meeting closed at 10.59 am.

Certified to be correct on the 4th day of August 2016.

Mark Furner MP

<u>Chair</u>



Thursday 21 July 2016 Room A35, Parliament House

Present	Mr Mark Furner MP (chair)
	Mr Michael Crandon MP (deputy chair)
	Ms Joan Pease MP
	Mrs Jann Stuckey
Secretariat in Attendance	Mr Stephen Finnimore, Research Director Ms Lynda Pretty, Principal Research Officer
1. Welcome and apologies	The meeting commenced at 8.33am. Mr Jon Krause MP and Mr Don Brown were apologies.
2. Estimates	The committee <u>confirmed</u> the following resolution, previously agreed to in accordance with SO204A:
	That the committee grant leave to Mr Robbie Katter MP to appear at the committee's estimates hearing to ask questions of ministers in relation to their portfolios.
	The committee <u>agreed</u> to convene at 9am on 3 August 2016 to consider adoption of its report on estimates.
	The committee <u>noted</u> that any statement of reservation or dissenting report is due within 24 hours of adoption of the committee's report [SO187].
	 Questioning at the hearing would alternate between government and non-government questioning in 15 minute blocks, each session to commence with non-government questioning, other than the session regarding Corrective Services which would commence with government questions. Corrections to the Hansard proof transcript would be sought by close on Thursday 28 July 2016. Where relevant, the committee would accept the replacement versions of answers received to questions on notice.
3. Close	The meeting closed at 8.39 am.

Certified to be correct on the 4^{th} day of August 2016.

Mark Furner MP

Chair



Thursday 21 July 2016 Parliament House

-					
Present	Mr Mark Furner MP (chair)				
	Mr Michael Crandon MP (deputy chair)				
	Mr Don Brown MP				
	Mr Jon Krause MP				
	Ms Joan Pease MP				
	Mrs Jann Stuckey MP				
Secretariat in	Mr Stephen Finnimore, Research Director				
Attendance	Ms Lynda Pretty, Principal Research Officer				
	Mr Gregory Thomson, Principal Research Officer				
1. Welcome and apologies	The meeting commenced at 4.37pm.				
2. Estimates	Discussion ensued regarding matters of questioning being relevant to the Appropriation				
	Bill, including the need or otherwise for a member to make express reference to a service				
	delivery statement when asking a question.				
3. Close	The meeting closed at 4.40pm.				

Certified to be correct on the 4th day of August 2016.

Mark Furner MP

Chair



Wednesday 3 August 2016 By teleconference

Present	Mr Mark Furner MP (chair)				
	Mr Michael Crandon MP (deputy chair)				
	Mr Don Brown MP				
	Mr Jon Krause MP				
	Ms Joan Pease MP				
	Mr Tim Mander MP (substituting for Mrs Jann Stuckey MP)				
Secretariat in	Mr Stephen Finnimore, Research Director				
Attendance	Ms Lynda Pretty, Principal Research Officer				
	Mr Gregory Thomson, Principal Research Officer				
1. Welcome and apologies	The meeting commenced at 9.00am. Mrs Jann Stuckey MP was an apology.				
2. Estimates	2.1 Minutes				
	Resolved:				
	That the committee endorses the draft minutes of the two meetings held on 21 July 2016 as a true record of those meetings.				
	Moved: Ms Joan Pease MP Seconded: Mr Michael Crandon MP				
	2.2 Chair's draft report				
	Discussion ensued regarding the chair's draft report, during which the committee agreed to minor amendments.				
	Resolved:				
	That the committee adopts the chair's draft report Consideration of 2016-17 budget estimates, amended as agreed, as a report of the committee and authorises its tabling in the Legislative Assembly.				
	Moved: Mr Don Brown MP Seconded: Mr Jon Krause MP				
3. Other business	3.1 Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016				
	<u>Departmental responses to submissions</u>				
	Resolved:				

	That the committee publishes the responses provided by the Department of Justice and Attorney-General and by Queensland Health to submissions received on the Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. Moved: Mr Michael Crandon MP Seconded: Ms Joan Pease MP				
3. Close	The meeting closed at 9.11am.				

Certified to be correct on the 4th day of August 2016.

Mark Furner MP

<u>Chair</u>

Correspondence relating to attendance of non-committee members





Mineral House Level 7, 41 George Street PO Box 15057 City East QLD 4002

20 May, 2016

Mr Mark Furner
Chair
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Email: lacsc@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Furner

Pursuant to Section 181 [e] of the Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Assembly I write to you today to seek leave for the following Non-Government Members of Parliament to attend the public Estimates hearings of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, scheduled for 21 July, 2016:

- · Tim Nicholls, Member for Clayfield
- · Deb Frecklington, Member for Nanango
- · Jeff Seeney, Member for Callide
- · Ian Walker, Member for Mansfield
- Jarrod Bleijie, Member for Kawana
- · Tim Mander, Member for Everton

Kind Regards

TIM NICHOLLS MP

Leader of the Opposition

Jo-Ann Miller MP

State Member for Bundamba PO Box 122 GOODNA Q 4300 bundamba@parliament.qld.gov.au Ph 3288 3737 Fax 3818 1613





Chair Mr Mark Furner MP Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

lacsc@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Chair,

I am writing to seek leave to appear at your Estimates Committee to ask questions of the Ministers in relation to their portfolios.

I understand that the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee is meeting on the 21st of July.

I would be grateful if you could advise your decision as soon as possible please.

Best wishes,

Jo-Ann Miller MP

Jo-Ann gets things done



PO Box 1968 Mount Isa QLD 4825

Mount Isa

74 Camooweal Street P: 07 4730 1100

Cloncurry:

27 Ramsay Street P: 07 4410 4100





1 5 JUL 2016

Mark Furner MP
Member for Ferny Grove
Chair
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee
Parliament House
George St
Brisbane, QLD, 4000

Dear Mr Mark Furner MP,

I write to seek leave of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee as part of the Estimates Hearings on the 21st of July.

If possible may I attend the evening slot concerning the Public Safety Business Agency and the Queensland Police Service?

I look forward to your response,

Yours Sincerely,

Robbie Katter

Member for Mount Isa

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills



Pre-hearing Questions on Notice and Answers





ESTIMATES 2016 PREHEARING QUESTIONS ON NOTICE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE AND MINISTER FOR TRAINING AND SKILLS

Question 1:

I refer to page 5 of the JAG SDS in relation to long term funding for legal assistance and ask – can the Attorney-General provide a breakdown of the \$157.5M in funding across the forward estimates, including allocated funding for community legal centres, the Legal Services Commission, Legal Aid Queensland and any other specific programs or agencies that are funded through this initiative across the forward estimates and in 2015/16?

Answer:

This Government is committed to providing funding certainty for Queensland's legal assistance providers, legal profession regulation, and law library services.

Historically funds from the Legal Practitioner Interest on Trust Accounts Fund (LPITAF) and Queensland Government Consolidated Fund (CF) have been used for the delivery of these services. However, the LPITAF revenue has been impacted by economic conditions and changes in the way in which solicitors operate their trust accounts. The fund has been reducing over a number of years and can no longer meet these funding commitments.

On 1 July 2016, this Government commenced implementing a much needed long term funding model, to ensure certainty, stability and sustainability for legal assistance providers, legal profession regulation, and law library services by fully funding all expenditure from the CF.

Funding of \$157.5M over four years is being provided with ongoing funding of \$40.6M per annum. The breakdown of this funding is:

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	Total Budget
Item	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	2016-20
	(\$M)	(\$M)	(\$M)	(\$M)	(\$M)
Legal Aid Queensland	20.656	21.069	21.490	21.920	85.135
Legal Services Commission	4.908	5.008	5.110	5.215	20.241
Bar Association of Queensland	0.161	0.164	0.167	0.171	0.663
Supreme Court Library Queensland	3.318	3.384	3.452	3.521	13.675
Community organisations (mostly Community Legal Centres)	9.040	9.331	9.570	9.816	37.757
TOTAL	38.083	38.956	39.789	40.643	157.471

The \$157.5M is in addition to the funding already provided to these organisations by the CF.

The funding will enable the delivery of:

- legal assistance services by Legal Aid Queensland and community organisations (mostly Community Legal Centres);
- legal profession regulation services by the Legal Services Commission and Bar Association of Queensland: and
- law library services for legal professionals and the community by the Supreme Court Library Queensland.

Interest revenue earned from the LPITAF will be transferred to the Consolidated Fund to partially offset the increased expenditure.

Providing sustainable funding for the legal service sector will ensure that approximately 935 full-time equivalent jobs supported by Government's total funding for these services will be maintained.

A breakdown of the 2015-16 LPITAF allocations are as follows:

	2015-16
Item	Budget
	(\$M)
Legal Aid Queensland	20.251
Legal Services Commission	5.410
Bar Association of Queensland	0.158
Supreme Court Library Queensland	3.253
Community organisations (mostly Community Legal Centres)	8.816
TOTAL	37.888



ESTIMATES 2016 PREHEARING QUESTIONS ON NOTICE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE AND MINISTER FOR TRAINING AND SKILLS

Question 2:

I refer to page 12 of the JAG SDS in relation to Strategic Policy and Legal Services and ask – how much funding was allocated and spent on developing policy and legislation in 2015/16 and how much is allocated for 2016/17?

Answer:

The Strategic Policy and Legal Services (SPLS) Division develops and coordinates proposals for justice-related legislation and provides advice on law reform and justice policy; provides legal advice and advocacy services to the Department of Justice and Attorney-General (DJAG); administers DJAG's right to information and privacy obligations; and leads and promotes the delivery of legal services across government.

The Strategic Policy unit (Strategic Policy) within SPLS is responsible for developing policy and legislation, and providing policy advice on a wide range of justice portfolio issues covering more than 130 statutes.

2015-16

In 2015-16, Strategic Policy had a budget allocation of \$5,611,000 to cover its policy and legislation workload, which included an allocation of \$4,924,000 for employee costs. The 2015-16 actual budget expenditure for Strategic Policy was \$5,359,000, which included \$4,684,000 expended on employee costs. Over the course of 2015-16, Strategic Policy's policy and legislation work included not only developing and implementing policy and legislation associated with Government election commitments (including providing secretariat support to the Taskforce on Organised Crime Legislation, amendments to the *Crime and Corruption Act 2001* to restore the Crime and Corruption Commission's independence and integrity, amendments to establish a Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council, amendments providing for civil partnership ceremonies, and the development of a protocol for judicial appointments) but also:

• implementation of justice related recommendations of the Not Now, Not Ever: Putting an End to Domestic and Family Violence in Queensland report, released in February 2015. This includes the development and passage of legislation to establish an independent Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board and address criminal law related recommendations (for example amendments to allow the domestic and family violence context of offending to be noted on charges and creation of an offence of choking, suffocation or strangulation in a domestic setting);

- continued implementation of the recommendations of the Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry Final Report, released in December 2013. This includes development of new Childrens Court Rules (commenced 1 July 2016), development of an evaluation framework for the justice related child protection reforms to assess their effectiveness, and the development and passage of legislation to establish the Director of Child Protection Litigation (commenced 1 July 2016); and
- development and passage of the Retail Shop Leases Amendment Bill 2015.

Strategic Policy also applied considerable resources to the legally complex issues and considerable parliamentary processes in late 2015 to ensure that the arrangements under the Opposition's Private Members Bill for the referendum for four year fixed terms was workable.

This included working on the dividing of the Opposition's Constitution (Fixed Term Parliament) Amendment Bill 2015 (Amendment Bill) and the considerable redrafting of the Amendment Bill to ensure it was in suitable form to be put to the people at a referendum. It also included the drafting of substantial amendments to the *Referendums Act 1997* (Referendums Act) (inserted into the Amendment Bill) to: facilitate pre-poll voting, enable greater access to declaration (postal) voting and make electronically assisted voting available at a referendum; allow a majority of members to agree to the published arguments both "for" and "against" a Bill (or question) unanimously supported in a vote of the Legislative Assembly; and extend the application of Part 7 of the Referendums Act to provide for the holding of a referendum in conjunction with local government elections and enable a referendum to be conducted by full postal ballot in those local government areas which have been approved for a full postal election. The consequential urgent making of the *Referendums Regulation 2016* was also required.

Strategic Policy also advised on proposals in the Opposition Private members Electoral (Improving Representation) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 earlier this year for an increase in Queensland electoral districts from 89 to 93 and changes to the composition of the Electoral Redistribution Commission.

2016-17

SPLS has received increased base funding from 2016-17 to address ongoing shortfalls in the delivery of emergent and urgent work by Strategic Policy, with a budget allocation of \$6,656,900 for 2016-17. Employee costs are estimated to comprise \$5,876,600 of the allocation, an increase on 2015-16.

The increased funding will:

- ensure Strategic Policy can deliver on its core work (including policy and legislative projects that are desirable from a general law reform and operational efficiency perspective) and emergent urgent work; and
- through an increase in permanent (as against temporary) positions: avoid the inefficiencies in ongoing recruitment of staff for short periods of time, loss of skilled and experienced staff, and assist in attracting and retaining suitable staff.



ESTIMATES 2016 PREHEARING QUESTIONS ON NOTICE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE AND MINISTER FOR TRAINING AND SKILLS

Question 3:

I refer to page 12 of the JAG SDS in relation to legal and prosecutions and ask – how many appeals were lodged by Crown Law and the ODPP in 2015/16, what were the cost of these appeals and how many were successful?

Answer:

Crown Law

Number of appeals lodged during 2015-16: 17

Approximate total cost of the appeals to all parties: \$712,289.34

Number successful: 8

(two were withdrawn, while seven are still ongoing)

Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP)

In the 2015-16 reporting period, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) lodged six Attorney-General's appeals against sentence on my behalf. Each of those appeals against sentence were dismissed by the Court of Appeal.

During the 2015-16 reporting period, the Director of Public Prosecutions lodged an application for special leave to appeal to the High Court of Australia against a decision by the Court of Appeal in the matter of Gerard Baden-Clay. The High Court of Australia granted the Director's application for special leave to appeal and the matter is currently awaiting hearing before the Full Court of the High Court of Australia on 26 July 2016.

The Court of Appeal ruled on three Attorney-General's references during the 2015-16 reporting period, all of which were lodged in the previous reporting period. There were no Attorney-General's references lodged in the 2015-16 reporting period.

Also, during the 2015-16 reporting period, the ODPP appeared on behalf of the Queensland Police Service as the appellant on 14 District Court appeals, nine of which were lodged during the 2015-16 reporting period. All nine of the District Court appeals lodged in the 2015-16 reporting period were allowed.

The cost of preparing and appearing in appeals is not separately recorded by the ODPP.



ESTIMATES 2016 PREHEARING QUESTIONS ON NOTICE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE AND MINISTER FOR TRAINING AND SKILLS

Question 4:

I refer to page 4 of the JAG SDS in relation to the Taskforce on Organised Crime and ask – how much money was allocated to the Taskforce, how much was actually spent and what was the total remuneration for the Chairperson, for the duration of both reviews undertaken?

Answer:

The Taskforce on Organised Crime Legislation was an election commitment of this Government to review the legislation introduced in late 2013 as part of a crackdown on organised crime, in particular outlaw motorcycle gangs.

The Taskforce commenced in June 2015 and was chaired by retired Supreme Court judge, the Honourable Alan Wilson QC. The Taskforce membership consisted of representatives from the Queensland Police Union, the Queensland Police Commissioned Officers' Union of Employees, the Queensland Law Society, the Bar Association of Queensland, and the Queensland Police Service; as well as the Public Interest Monitor. Senior representatives from the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, and the Department of Justice and Attorney-General (DJAG), also participated in the Taskforce. The Taskforce was supported by a secretariat of officers from DJAG.

The Taskforce delivered its report to the Government on 31 March 2016. The Report was publicly released on 4 April 2016.

The allocated budget for the Taskforce was \$812,000. The actual spend was \$790,000. For his role as Chair of the Taskforce, in accordance with his contract, Mr Wilson QC was paid at a capped rate of \$5000 plus GST per day for a maximum of 50 days. He received \$250,000 plus GST.

The capped rate of \$5000 plus GST per day is consistent with the *Engaging barristers to undertake legal work for government departments policy*, which outlines how the Queensland Government engages and pays barristers, and provides a consistent and fair approach to remunerating barristers engaged by or on behalf of Queensland Government departments. The policy is available online at: http://www.justice.qld.gov.au/justice-services/legal-services-coordination-unit/whole-of-government-policy-for-engaging-barristers

On 2 October 2015, Mr Wilson QC was also tasked with conducting the statutory review of the *Criminal Organisation Act 2009* (COA).

The COA commenced on 15 April 2010 and requires that it be reviewed five years after its commencement by a retired Supreme Court judge to decide if it is operating effectively and meeting its legislative objectives.

On 15 December 2015, the report on the COA Review was delivered to the Government and was tabled out of session on 4 April 2016.

For his role in reviewing the COA, in accordance with his contract for that particular review, Mr Wilson QC was paid at a capped rate of \$5000 plus GST per day for a maximum of 30 days. He received \$150,000 plus GST.



ESTIMATES 2016 PREHEARING QUESTIONS ON NOTICE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE AND MINISTER FOR TRAINING AND SKILLS

Question 5:

I refer to page 91 of the JAG SDS in relation to the Electoral Commission of Queensland and ask – does the target determined for the measure of 'Level of informal voting State general election' for 2016/17 take into account the changes in the voting system to compulsory preferential voting?

Answer:

The measure "level of informal voting State general election" has been a consistent measure for the Commission and in previous years targets have sat between 2% – 4%.

However, given the recent legislative changes making Full Preferential Voting mandatory, the Commission considered a higher target more appropriate.

For example at the recent local government quadrennial elections, the informal vote for First-past-the-post was 9.62%, with Optional Preferential Voting for Mayors and Councillors being 4.17% and 4.35% respectively.

It is therefore difficult to predict with any certainty what the informal vote will be, especially when a new voting system is introduced.



ESTIMATES 2016 PREHEARING QUESTIONS ON NOTICE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE AND MINISTER FOR TRAINING AND SKILLS

Question 6:

I refer to page 16 of the JAG SDS regarding liquor and gaming regulation and ask:

- a. what is the budget for the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation, broken down across the forward estimates;
- b. how much money was allocated and spent on promoting responsible service of alcohol in 2015/16 and how much is allocated in 2016/17; and
- c. how many FTE OLGR liquor inspectors were in place for 2015/16 and what is the FTE allocation for 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19?

Answer:

The budget for the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation (OLGR) broken down over the forward estimates is:

2016-17 Budget: \$33.078 million;

2017-18 Budget: \$32.991 million;

2018-19 Budget: \$31.377 million; and

2019-20 Budget: \$31.963 million.

Note that the reduction between 2017-18 and 2018-19 largely reflects the finalisation of the three year additional funding for the tackling alcohol-fuelled violence initiative. The details of the staffing impacts of this are set out below. This coincides with the completion of the review of the initiative which will inform Government on future policy making and resource allocations.

In 2015-16, the Department of Justice and Attorney-General (DJAG) was allocated \$3.330 million to tackle alcohol-fuelled violence in and around licensed premises. From these funds, the OLGR spent \$54,500 on the Mystery Shopper Responsible Service of Alcohol (RSA) Program.

The OLGR also spent \$82,162 promoting responsible service of alcohol in Queensland from within its resources.

The Office of Regulatory Policy spent \$53,080 on an irresponsible supply campaign aimed at parents, family and adult friends of teenagers aged 14 to 17 years.

In 2016-17, the DJAG has an estimated budget of \$3.095 million to tackle alcohol-fuelled violence.

In addition, it should be noted that the tackling alcohol-fuelled violence initiative includes marketing activities being undertaken by a number of agencies other than DJAG. These include:

• Department of the Premier and Cabinet

- Leading tackling alcohol-fuelled violence social marketing campaigns which has been Integrated into the existing *What's your relationship with alcohol?* campaign.
- Danny Green Cowards punch campaign \$20,000 support to boost campaign activity in Queensland markets. The campaign aimed to reduce alcohol-fuelled violence in young males, aged 18-24 years old. The funding was used towards the placement of advertisements on digital signs in relevant venues and taxi backs, between December 2015 and February 2016.
- Partnered with Queensland Health to conduct State-wide research into alcohol-use and messaging.

Queensland Health

- Targeting the health impacts of high-risk drinking via the healthier happier and What's your relationship with alcohol? campaigns.

• Transport and Main Roads

- Dry Driver Salute (drink driving), part of Join the Drive.
- Mates Motel (drink driving), part of Join the Drive.
- Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services
 - Be safe and watch your mates Schoolies campaign.

Queensland Police Service

- Support Government campaigns relating to alcohol-use through internal channels
- Locally led activity YouTube videos, police blogs, local messages within stations.

In 2015-16, the OLGR received additional temporary funding that continues to 2017-18. That funding is for:

- nine additional temporary liquor inspector positions provided to support the safe night precinct and tackling alcohol-fuelled violence strategies; and
- three additional temporary investigator positions and one additional temporary legal officer position.

Including those positions supported by funding until 2018, OLGR has 49 inspectors and 17 investigators (including legal officer).

The Government has committed to a full evaluation of the tackling alcohol-fuelled violence initiatives in 2018, to inform future policy making and resource allocation.



ESTIMATES 2016 PREHEARING QUESTIONS ON NOTICE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE AND MINISTER FOR TRAINING AND SKILLS

Question 7:

I refer to page 16 of the JAG SDS in relation to the Office of Fair Trading and ask:

- a. What is the current balance of the Claim Fund under the *Agents Financial Administration Act 2014*; and
- b. How much of this fund was distributed in 2015/16?

Answer:

\$1.5m was received in appropriation for the Claim Fund. There is no balance as any remaining amount is returned to consolidated revenue at the end of the financial year.

A total of \$825, 274.72 was distributed from the fund in 2015/16.

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

2016 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No.8

THE LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE ASKED THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE AND MINISTER FOR TRAINING AND SKILLS (HON YVETTE D'ATH MP)—

QUESTION:

I refer to page 4 of the Education and Training SDS in relation to Jobs Queensland and ask:

- a. How much funding was allocated to this program in 2015/16;
- b. What was the funding spent on, including accommodation costs, staffing, etc; and
- c. How many enquiries were fielded in 2015/16?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

The Queensland Government has allocated \$40 million over four years from 2015–16 for the establishment and operations of Jobs Queensland as a statutory authority.

In 2015–16, \$850,000 was allocated to set up the Jobs Queensland Secretariat at Ipswich and establish the Jobs Queensland Interim Reference Group. This mainly comprised of staffing and operational costs including accommodation costs for the newly established Jobs Queensland Secretariat.

As would be expected for an advisory organisation, initial expenditure has been limited during the setup period. However, this funding is and will continue to be used to support program delivery in line with the core functions of Jobs Queensland, including contracting research services, industry engagement and workforce planning.

The nature of Jobs Queensland's work means they don't measure enquiries as a performance indicator; however, the focus is on building strong industry networks as the basis for providing advice on future skill needs and workforce planning requirements and the apprenticeship and traineeship system in Queensland.

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

2016 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No.9

THE LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE ASKED THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE AND MINISTER FOR TRAINING AND SKILLS (HON YVETTE D'ATH MP)—

QUESTION:

I refer to page 4 of the Education and Training SDS in relation to restoring TAFE as the premier public provider of VET and ask: how much funding was allocated towards this initiative in 2015/16 and what is the breakdown of funding across the forward estimates, including specific reference to what the funding will be allocated towards?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to not only restoring TAFE Queensland as a premier provider of vocational education and training (VET) in our State, but also strengthening the VET sector by providing increased quality control and measures to assist VET stakeholders in resolving issues of concern. We have invested \$34 million over three years to:

- create up to 100 full-time equivalent (FTE) teaching and support positions within TAFE Queensland and Central Queensland University;
- provide additional regional support programs, foundation skills courses for disadvantaged learners, student support services, second chance education and VET in schools courses;
- establishing a fully independent Training Ombudsman with the power to investigate complaints and provide a pathway for consumers to navigate the VET sector not only in Queensland, but at the national level;
- ensure TAFE Queensland has priority access to state owned training facilities; and
- provide for training in emerging innovative industries through advice given by Jobs Queensland.

As the commitment is over a three year period, funding per year increases over the out years to enable a first year of appropriate legislative and administration processes to occur.

In 2015–16, \$5.065 million was expended under the Rescuing TAFE commitment, as follows:

TAFE Queensland - \$4.056 million

The deliverables under the Rescuing TAFE Agreement are:

- investing in student support services;
- providing foundation skills courses for disadvantaged learners;

- increasing courses available under VET in Schools;
- expanding and improving regional support programs;
- subsidising second chance training opportunities; and
- new FTE positions target of 91 FTEs over three years.

TAFE Queensland has started to deliver these additional services and is aiming to provide an additional 2400 subsidised training places throughout Queensland across a range of industry areas from Certificate I to Diploma level qualifications.

Central Queensland University (CQUniversity) - \$0.48 million

The deliverables under the Rescuing TAFE Agreement with CQUniversity are:

- investing in student support services;
- providing foundation skills courses for disadvantaged learners;
- increasing courses available under VET in Schools;
- expanding and improving regional support programs;
- subsidising second chance training opportunities; and
- new FTE positions target of nine FTEs over three years.

Training Ombudsman – \$0.529 million

The interim Training Ombudsman commenced on 24 August 2015. These expenses related to establishment and remuneration, operational funding for a support office and related supplies and services including advertising and promotion.

With regard to the out years, budget allocations for each part of the commitment, over the three year period, are as follows:

TAFE Queensland and Central Queensland University: \$25 million

Training for Emerging Innovative Industries: \$4 million

Training Ombudsman: \$5 million

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

2016 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No.10

THE LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE ASKED THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE AND MINISTER FOR TRAINING AND SKILLS (HON YVETTE D'ATH MP)—

QUESTION:

I refer to page 11 of the Education and Training SDS in relation to TAFE and ask:

- a. what were the student enrolment figures, per campus for 2014/15 and 2015/16, reported separately; and
- b. what were the utilisation rates, per campus for 2014/15 and 2015/16?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

I note that total student numbers across all delivery modes continue to face the legacy challenges from the significant reduction in investment in 2011-12 to 2014-15 that saw a funding reduction to TAFE Queensland of \$171.815 million.

I am advised that the enrolment details of the total number of student enrolments for classroom and blended delivery, excluding online, workplace delivery and Recognition of Prior Learning delivery modes is as set out below.

This is reflective of the market movements due to the introduction of full contestability within the vocational education and training (VET) sector.

Metropolitan Brisbane - Trade and Non-Trade

Student Enrolments							
Site	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16			
Southbank	21,316	19,135	18,646	18,581			
Alexandra Hills	2,813	2,328	1,496	1,213			
Browns Plains	461	418	324	311			
Loganlea	4,826	3,906	2,974	2,975			
Mt Gravatt	7,397	5,261	2,976	1,975			
Yeerongpilly	155	356	210	134			
Bracken Ridge	7,016	5,824	4,467	4,211			
Caboolture	2,215	1,630	1,426	1,664			
Grovely	763	821	795	641			
Redcliffe	618	495	321	250			
Acacia Ridge	10,217	9,606	9,574	9,617			
Eagle Farm	4,198	3,877	3,722	3,776			
Total	Total 61,995 53,657 46,931 45,348						

Gold Coast

Student Enrolments						
Site	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16		
Ashmore ²		7,717	6,595	5,296	3,803	
Southport ²		5,241	5,277	5,317	6,382	
Coomera		1,185	1,182	1,123	1,208	
Coolangatta		23	167	26	27	
Coomera Marine Precinct		145	123	96	62	
	Total	14,311	13,344	11,858	11,482	

² Non-trade moved from Ashmore moved to Southport to accommodate GOLDOC

Regional South West

Student Enrolments						
Site	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16		
Bundamba	5,951	4,088	2,660	2,204		
Chinchilla	353	574	664	490		
Springfield	535	667	975	636		
Inala	1,152	930	732	588		
Dalby	451	388	348	253		
Kingaroy	1,368	1,254	726	677		
Nurunderi	280	187	133	72		
Roma	1,010	775	484	510		
Toowoomba	6,544	6,093	5,544	4,883		
Warwick	1,298	1,071	695	665		
Total	18,942	16,027	10,301	8,774		

Regional North Queensland

Student Enrolments							
Site	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16			
Burdekin	611	570	478	483			
Bowen	454	397	375	278			
Cannonvale	692	552	491	293			
Ingham	372	239	127	52			
Pimlico	5,015	5,099	3,323	2,595			
Townsville Trade Training	2,079	1,865	1,917	2,026			
Normanton	47	51	9	33			
Mt Isa	1,680	1,118	1,047	894			
Atherton	412	318	188	254			
Cairns	8,015	7,091	7,142	6,501			
Mareeba	430	409	240	377			
Great Barrier Reef Int Marine Centre	840	787	643	891			
Thursday Island	616	314	334	366			
Cloncurry	31	42	43	39			
Innisfail	424	282	248	257			
Total	21,718	19,134	16,605	15,339			

Regional Sunshine and Wide Bay Coast

Student Enrolments						
Site	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16		
Maroochydore	1,106	1,193	888	694		
Mooloolaba	2,925	3,281	2,488	2,668		
Nambour	4,552	3,943	3,222	2,581		
Gympie	1,139	788	622	575		
Hervey Bay ³	1,438	1,090	988	1,339		
Maryborough Nagel St ³	870	588	534	315		
Maryborough City ³	0	0	0	118		
Bundaberg	2,848	2,156	1,615	1,815		
Total	14,878	13,039	10,357	10,105		

³Maryborough Nagel St closed - trade move to Hervey Bay and non-trade to Maryborough City

In relation to the utilisation rates per campus for 2014–15 and 2015–16, I have been advised by TAFE Queensland that it is well known across the VET sector in Australia that determining utilisation rates in VET training facilities is very complex due to the nature of VET training. This is compounded by current issues with the scale and condition of the Queensland's state training assets. For this reason I am advised that TAFE Queensland adopts "usage" as a proxy for the utilisation measure. Currently TAFE Queensland occupies 82.1% of the gross floor area of the state's training assets.

In addition to this, the state's training assets were managed by the Queensland Training Asset Management Authority (QTAMA) until August 2015. QTAMA's focus was to commercialise the state's training asset base but due to the complexities surrounding the asset base, this commercial focus failed with little interest from external parties for the use of the space. A key part of the Government's commitment to Rescuing TAFE included the dissolution of QTAMA, returning ownership of training assets to the Department of Education and Training (DET) and recognising TAFE Queensland's important role in the VET market.



Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

ESTIMATES 2016 PREHEARING QUESTIONS ON NOTICE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE AND MINISTER FOR TRAINING AND SKILLS

Question 11:

In relation to page 5 of the Service Delivery Statement and the Justice Services area of the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, can the Attorney-General outline how the government is supporting Queensland Courts to provide effective and fair outcomes for Queenslanders?

Answer:

Queensland Courts are experiencing the pressure of increasing workloads as lodgements increase in domestic and family violence, land and criminal matters. As at 31 May 2016, when compared to the previous year's data, there was an increase of 11.3% in adult criminal charges lodged at the Magistrates Courts and domestic violence applications increased by 21.6%.

The Supreme Court has seen a 25.4% increase in criminal lodgements and District Court criminal lodgements have increased by 6.5% compared to the same time in the 2014–15. An increase in lodgements resulted in an increase in trials. Further, the average trial length in the Supreme Court has increased to 6.2 days – which is an increase of 1.2 days from the previous financial year. In the District Court trial length has increased from 3 days per trial to 3.2 days per trial.

Recognising the impacts of these increases in workload, this government has invested \$20 million over two years into the justice system which includes funding for our courts. This funding boost will ensure that court registries across the state are in a better position to provide the best client service to the community. It will also enable the Chief Magistrate to better manage the courts increasing workload with \$2.25 million of the funding being allocated for relieving magistrates to enable a more efficient and effective use of magistrates by placing these resources where they are required the most. Funding of \$672,000 over four years with \$171,000 per annum ongoing has also been provided to Queensland Magistrates for a professional training program specifically targeted to improve their expertise in managing Domestic and Family Violence matters.

Funding certainty for Queensland's legal assistance providers, legal profession regulation, and law library services has been provided by fully funding all expenditure from the Consolidated Fund (CF). Funding of \$157.5 million over four years is being provided with ongoing funding of \$40.6 million per annum. Of this, \$85.1 million over four years will be available for Legal Aid Queensland and \$37.8 million over four years will be available for community organisations (mostly Community Legal Centres). This is in addition to the funding already provided for these services by the CF.

Legal assistance services are free or low cost legal services that are provided to vulnerable and disadvantaged people who cannot engage their own lawyer. These services play a vital role in the justice system as they facilitate earlier and less expensive resolution of legal matters for parties and Government, particularly because in many cases they avoid parties having to appear before a court or tribunal and they increase the efficiency of court and tribunal proceedings (reducing costs to all Government and non-Government organisations present at the proceedings); and de-escalation of domestic violence and child abuse.

This Government appreciates that timely decisions by the Land Court are critical to the mining and construction industries that contribute so much to the economic strength of Queensland. This Government has acted quickly, allocating additional funding of \$1.5 million over two years in the 2016-17 budget to the Land Court to assist it in meeting the challenges of the court's workload and keeping delays to a minimum.

The Government has committed \$8.7 million over four years to reinstate specialist courts, such as the Murri Court, Special Circumstances Court Diversion Program and Drug Court which were abolished by the previous government.

New models for Murri Court and the Special Circumstances Court Diversion Program have been developed following extensive consultation with key stakeholders, including the judiciary, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders, Community Justices Groups and other government and non-government agencies.

Murri Court provides an opportunity for members of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community (including Elders and victims) to participate in a court process which requires defendants to take responsibility for their offending behaviour but which respects and acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture. Defendants are provided with support from Elders and support services to address the underlying causes of offending and encourage behaviour change.

The reinstatement of the Drug Court is being supported by a review of national and international best practice models and contemporary evidence of what works in reducing risks of reoffending. The aim of Drug Courts and similar court-based drug interventions is to reduce the level of criminal offending in the community by addressing underlying issues associated with that offending, in particular drug use.

A specialist domestic and family violence court has been operating at Southport since 1 September 2015 in response to recommendations by the Special Taskforce on Domestic and Family Violence in Queensland in its report *Not Now Not Ever: Putting an End to Domestic and Family Violence in Queensland.* The specialist court involves specialist magistrates, a dedicated court registry, dedicated support for victims and perpetrators, dedicated police prosecutors and duty lawyers available at the court. The trial is currently being evaluated. Subject to the outcomes of the evaluation which is due by the end of 2016 and a needs analysis, a funding envelope of up to \$40.4 million over four years (\$34.8 million operational/services and \$5.6 million in capital over two years) has been held at a whole-of-Government level as a contingency to fund the rollout of a specialist approach to domestic and family violence across a number of locations.

The Government has also allocated \$23.6 million over four years to reinstate the capacity for courts to refer young people who commit offences to youth justice conferencing and to enhance restorative justice processes in Queensland.

The benefits of restorative justice are based on international and Australian evidence which demonstrate these processes as an effective criminal justice response to address offending particularly with young people and also with victims.

The further funding will mean more young people who have offended will be held accountable for their behaviour, face up to their victims, take responsibility for their actions in a meaningful way and also be supported to make long term, positive changes in their behaviour.

Restoring and enhancing youth justice conferencing is about making young people accountable for their offending behaviour. These are not soft options and non-compliance with a referral will result in breach action being taken where the young person is returned to the police or court for further action.

These enhancements will provide greater opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people, their families and communities to be involved in effectively responding to youth offending in a culturally appropriate way.

The restorative justice enhancements will also strengthen opportunities for victims of crime to be involved in the justice process involving young offenders and ensure victims needs and issues are addressed and assist them in recovering from crimes committed against them.



Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

ESTIMATES 2016 PREHEARING QUESTIONS ON NOTICE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE AND MINISTER FOR TRAINING AND SKILLS

Question 12:

Can the Attorney-General outline what budget measures support the Government's priority in tackling domestic and family violence, with reference to page 5 of the Service Delivery Statement?

Answer:

The Government is committed to reducing the devastating effects of domestic and family violence in Queensland.

The 2016-17 State Budget includes a range of funding measures which will continue the work of this Government in implementing recommendations of the *Not Now, Not Ever:* Putting an End to Domestic and Family Violence in Queensland report (the report).

The Department of Justice and Attorney-General (DJAG) is involved in implementing more than 40 recommendations (either as lead or as a partner agency) from the report. While a number of recommendations have already been completed, there is still a lot of work to do over coming years.

The 2016-17 State Budget invested \$54.6 million over four years across the following key areas of the department to develop, support and strengthen the justice system's response to domestic and family violence:

- \$2.8 million in 2016-17 for the extension of the specialist domestic and family violence court trial at Southport;
- \$26.8 million over four years (including \$21.2 million operational and \$5.6 million capital funding), allocated as part of a \$40.4 million whole-of-government contingency, to fund the rollout of a specialist approach to domestic and family violence across a number of locations from 2017-18. This is subject to a needs analysis and the outcomes of the final evaluation of the Specialist Domestic and Family Violence Court Trial at Southport, which is due by the end of 2016 (relates to report recommendations 96, 97, 98 and 100);

- \$11 million over four years (including \$1.5 million in 2016-17) to enhance the capability of Community Justice Groups (CJGs) in the 18 discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and support the development of culturally appropriate domestic and family violence services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, as well as build capability of CJGs to support domestic and family violence reforms (relates to report recommendations 9 and 92);
- \$300,000 over three years (\$100,000 in 2016-17) to support the Women's Legal Services Helpline to meet ongoing demand (relates to report recommendations 72 and 73);
- \$700,000 over four years (\$165,000 in 2016-17) for the development and delivery of a professional training program for Queensland magistrates in domestic and family violence issues (relates to report recommendations 103 to 105);
- \$2.2 million over four years (\$316,000 for 2016-17) to establish a Queensland Sexual Assault Counselling Privilege legal assistance service (relates to report recommendation 130);
- \$6.9 million over four years (\$713,000 in 2016-17) for DJAG's effective participation (by courts, victim assist, corrective services and youth justice) in the roll out of High Risk Teams across eight locations, including Logan/Beenleigh, as part of building an integrated service response, to prioritise the safety of victims (relates to report recommendations 9, 74, 75, 76, 77, 79, 80, 82 and 83);
- \$200,000 in 2016-17 to explore options to monitor high risk perpetrators of domestic and family violence (relates to report recommendation 123); and
- \$3.7 million over four years (1.455 million in 2016-17) to establish an implementation and coordination team in DJAG to meet its commitment to drive and implement the justice reform program arising out of a range of recommendations in the report.

This strong investment in the justice portfolio is part of the Palaszczuk Government's overall package of \$198.2 million over five years since the 2015-16 Budget to implement recommendations of the report.



Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

ESTIMATES 2016 PREHEARING QUESTIONS ON NOTICE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE AND MINISTER FOR TRAINING AND SKILLS

Question 13:

In reference to page 6 of the Service Delivery Statement, can the Attorney-General please outline progress with the re-establishment of the Murri Court across Queensland?

Answer:

This Government committed \$8.7 million over four years to reinstate specialist courts and court diversion programs, including the Murri Court, which were abolished by the previous government.

The new Murri Court model was developed after significant consultation with key stakeholders including the Chief Magistrate and other magistrates, community justice groups, Elders and Respected Persons and government and non-government agencies.

Murri Court is being re-established in 13 locations across Queensland: Cairns; Cherbourg; Caboolture; Townsville; Mt Isa; Mackay; Rockhampton; Brisbane; Wynnum; Cleveland; Richlands; Toowoomba; and St George.

Formal launch ceremonies have occurred in Rockhampton, Cairns, Townsville, Brisbane, Richlands, Mackay, Mt Isa, Wynnum and Cherbourg. The remaining launches will be held by the end of September 2016.

Launch ceremonies are being held at each location to acknowledge the contribution that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders make to our justice system and the valuable role they play in connecting our justice system with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture.

Murri Court provides an opportunity for members of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community (including Elders and victims) to participate in a court process which requires defendants to take responsibility for their offending behaviour and which respects and acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture.

Murri Court is not a 'soft option'. Murri Courts require offenders to work hard to address the underlying causes of offending behaviour. Offenders are required to take responsibility for their offending and recognise the impact of their actions on the community.

Defendants are provided with support from Elders and support services to address the underlying causes of their offending behaviour.

The new Murri Court model is one initiative that contributes to the reduction of contact Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have with the traditional justice system, instils trust in the justice system for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and contributes to a fair, safe and just Queensland.

Under the new Murri Court model we aim to ensure:

- participation by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders, Respected Persons and community members in the court process;
- o a culturally appropriate court process that respects and acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture;
- o referral to support services to help defendants address the causes of offending; and
- magistrates are provided with detailed information about the defendant's cultural and personal circumstances to improve sentencing outcomes.

The key changes from the former Murri Court are:

Elders and Respected Persons are now entitled to be paid a daily attendance allowance of \$100 to cover out of pocket expenses and recognise their valuable contribution to the Murri Court.

Murri Court is being supported by two senior positions within the Courts Innovation Program (AO7 and AO8) to strategically position and support the program across the State. This includes developing partnerships with government and non-government agencies to identify and coordinate bail programs to support the Murri Court.

Brokerage support funding of \$50,000 per year is available to help address defendants' emergency needs that are unable to be met by other service providers. For example, food vouchers, travel cards/warrants, obtaining birth certificates or accommodation bonds.

Local Community Justice Groups are responsible for coordinating individual Murri Courts (e.g. transporting and rostering Elders, convening stakeholder meetings and preparing cultural reports for the court). Community Justice Groups are supported in this role by Indigenous Justice Officers within the Department of Justice and Attorney-General. Community Justice Groups will also receive payment for each cultural report provided to the court.

The Chief Magistrate has issued a practice direction that sets out referral procedures, eligibility requirements and court protocols and processes. The Practice Direction helps to ensure consistency across the State but also recognises the importance of local flexibility.

Policies and procedures are being developed to support the court including clear articulation of stakeholder roles and responsibilities and consistent report templates.

Murri Court training is being delivered progressively to Community Justice Groups, Elders, service providers and court stakeholders in Murri Court sites, and will be completed by the end of 2016.



Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

ESTIMATES 2016 PREHEARING QUESTIONS ON NOTICE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE AND MINISTER FOR TRAINING AND SKILLS

Questions 14

In reference to page 12 of the Service Delivery Statement, can the Attorney-General outline the how the Government is properly resourcing the fight against crime across Queensland?

Answer:

The Government is committed to delivering effective laws and responsive systems that strategically target criminal offending across Queensland.

In respect of my portfolio responsibilities as Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, which includes the Crime and Corruption Commission (CCC) and the Director of Public Prosecutions, I advise as follows.

Following the outcomes of three reviews commissioned by the Government – the Queensland Organised Crime Commission of Inquiry (the Commission), the statutory review of the *Criminal Organisation Act 2009* and the Taskforce on Organised Crime Legislation (the Taskforce) – the Government announced it would introduce a new legislative regime to tackle organised crime in Queensland. The new regime will not just target outlaw motorcycle gangs, but all serious organised criminals; be they child sex offenders, drug traffickers or boiler room fraudsters. It is anticipated that legislation will be introduced to Parliament later this year.

It is vital that the fight against crime in Queensland is properly resourced. Queensland's frontline services must have the funds and resources available to them to investigate and prosecute criminal activity across the State.

The Commission's report identified serious organised crime involvement in the child exploitation market. The Government responded immediately to provide the Queensland Police Service, as a first stage response, with \$3.2 million, to be shared with the CCC, to improve frontline investigations into child exploitation.

The CCC also received first stage funding of \$485,000 to augment the non-capital costs of the Forensic Computing Unit to enable an increase in paedophilia investigations by its Cerberus team. The Government acknowledges that the capacity of Cerberus to undertake more paedophilia investigations rests on the Forensic Computing Unit's capacity to support this. To that end, the Government approved that the CCC use retained earnings of \$510,000 for the Cerberus team and Forensic Computing Unit towards capital costs.

Increased funding has also been provided to support the CCC in delivering its intelligence gathering function about organised crime. An additional \$3.6 million over four years has been approved for crime intelligence hearings.

Further, increased funding of \$3.5 million over four years and one million per annum ongoing, has been approved to support the CCC to continue confiscation proceedings in relation to organised crime, unexplained wealth orders and serious drug offender confiscation orders.

The Taskforce made it clear that to truly and effectively stem the threat posed by organised crime any new regime must offer efficiencies not only at the investigation, charge and preliminary stage of the process but must also be able to withstand the trial stage and to secure convictions. To *actually* confront organised crime, the regime must meet the challenges of all stages of the criminal justice system.

The Government has also approved funding of \$12.1 million over four years to the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) to provide for an additional 26 full-time equivalent staff for the ODPP in order to boost the response to serious organised crime in this State.

The positions are currently being filled, with the majority of the positions being based outside of Brisbane. The positions will allow earlier and more comprehensive preparation and prosecution of briefs of evidence to ensure that the high quality prosecution service provided by ODPP is maintained.

In particular the additional staff will facilitate earlier preparation of briefs of evidence to allow the identification of early pleas of guilty, as well as the earlier resolution of matters that are to be determined at trial. The identification of early pleas of guilty is internationally recognised as a major driver of significant cost savings across a number of sectors in the criminal justice system, including ODPP, Courts, Youth Justice and Queensland Corrective Services.

The additional 26 full-time equivalent positions will contribute towards achieving government strategies of targeting organised crime, improve access to justice, better manage service demand on the justice system and improve service delivery models, thereby helping ensure that Queensland is safe, is fair and just and gets great service.

The Government has also provided \$5.3 million over three years in addition to the \$3.1 million already allocated (bringing the total funding to \$8.4 million) to establish an independent crime statistics body. The Commission and the Taskforce both supported the creation of an independent body that would prioritise the collection of data on organised crime in Queensland. Work is underway regarding the appropriate model for this body.

From 2012-13, the Queensland Police Service has increased its frontline police numbers by 1100. Following this, Queensland Courts are experiencing the pressure of increasing workloads as lodgements have increased in domestic and family violence, and criminal matters across all court jurisdictions.

As at 31 May 2016, when compared to the previous year's data, there was an increase of 11.3% (373, 071 to 415, 086) in adult criminal charges lodged at the Magistrates Courts and initiating domestic violence applications increased 21.6% (from 24,895 to 30, 279). The Supreme and District Courts are also experiencing significant increases in criminal matters. As at 31 May 2016, Supreme Court criminal lodgements had increased by 25.4% (from 1,185 to 1,486) when compared to the same period for the previous financial year, and in the District Court, criminal lodgements increased by 6.5% (from 5,019 to 5,345) over the same period.

This Government, recognising this growth and the impact that additional police officers have on the system, has committed \$20 million over two years to the justice system which includes funding for the courts to deal with criminal matters. This includes \$2.25 million per annum over two years for judicial resources to assist the Chief Magistrate in managing the increased workload in the Magistrates Court, our busiest court. Additionally, during 2015-16, eight new magistrates were appointed to the bench in Queensland, filling vacancies. These judicial officers have strengthened the number of Queensland magistrates to 94 in 91.2 positions.

The additional funding will also assist court registry staff in Queensland to manage the increasing workload of complex matters. The funding package is a significant injection of support to court services and will be used to respond to the increased criminal and domestic and family violence matters being heard in court.

The Government is committed to ensuring an efficient and effective justice system for all Queenslanders and will continue to work with the Chief Justice, Chief Judge and Chief Magistrate to discuss any issues that impact our courts.

The Government has committed \$8.7 million over four years to reinstate specialist courts, such as the Murri Court, Special Circumstances Court Diversion Program and Drug Court which were abolished by the previous government.

New models for Murri Court and the Special Circumstances Court Diversion Program have been developed following extensive consultation with key stakeholders, including the judiciary, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders, Community Justices Groups and other government and non-government agencies.

Murri Court provides an opportunity for members of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community (including Elders and victims) to participate in a court process which requires defendants to take responsibility for their offending behaviour but which respects and acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture. Defendants are provided with support from Elders and support services to address the underlying causes of offending and encourage behaviour change.

The reinstatement of the Drug Court is being supported by a review of national and international best practice models and contemporary evidence of what works in reducing risks of reoffending. The aim of Drug Courts and similar court-based drug interventions is to reduce the level of criminal offending in the community by addressing underlying issues associated with that offending, in particular drug use.

A specialist domestic and family violence court has been operating at Southport since 1 September 2015 in response to recommendations by the Special Taskforce on Domestic and Family Violence in Queensland in its report *Not Now Not Ever: Putting an End to Domestic and Family Violence in Queensland.* The specialist court involves specialist magistrates, a dedicated court registry, dedicated support for victims and perpetrators, dedicated police prosecutors and duty lawyers available at the court. The trial is currently being evaluated. Subject to the outcomes of the evaluation which is due by the end of 2016 and a needs analysis, a funding envelope of up to \$40.4 million over four years (\$34.8 million operational/services and \$5.6 million in capital over two years) has been held at a whole-of-Government level as a contingency to fund the rollout of a specialist approach to domestic and family violence across a number of locations.

The Government has also allocated \$23.6 million over four years to reinstate the capacity for courts to refer young people who commit offences to youth justice conferencing and to enhance restorative justice processes in Queensland.

The benefits of restorative justice are based on international and Australian evidence which demonstrate these processes as an effective criminal justice response to address offending particularly with young people and also with victims.

The further funding will mean more young people who have offended will be held accountable for their behaviour, face up to their victims, take responsibility for their actions in a meaningful way and also be supported to make long term, positive changes in their behaviour.

Restoring and enhancing youth justice conferencing is about making young people accountable for their offending behaviour. These are not soft options and non-compliance with a referral will result in breach action being taken where the young person is returned to the police or court for further action.

These enhancements will provide greater opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people, their families and communities to be involved in effectively responding to youth offending in a culturally appropriate way.

The restorative justice enhancements will also strengthen opportunities for victims of crime to be involved in the justice process involving young offenders and ensure victims needs and issues are addressed and assist them in recovering from crimes committed against them.



Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

ESTIMATES 2016 PREHEARING QUESTIONS ON NOTICE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE AND MINISTER FOR TRAINING AND SKILLS

Question 15:

In reference to page 16 of the Service Delivery Statement, can the Attorney-General outline the benefits to the Queensland night time economy the Palaszczuk government's Tackling Alcohol-Fuelled Violence policy will bring?

Answer:

After extensive consultation with industry and community stakeholders, the Palaszczuk Government developed a comprehensive, multi-faceted policy framework that will build a safer community and a vibrant nightlife by tackling alcohol-fuelled violence.

Currently, 55% of Queenslanders consider the city or centre of town to be unsafe on a Saturday night. Reducing alcohol-fuelled violence in our communities will see people going out more, as Queenslanders feel safer. Accordingly, these factors will offset any potential loss of liquor trade from the change in liquor trading hours late at night (indeed in the early hours of the morning), and encourage diversification in Queensland's night-time economy, just as evidence shows it did in Newcastle.

The Government's *Tackling Alcohol-Fuelled Violence* Policy (the Policy) achieves the appropriate balance between the commercial interests of the liquor industry and the need to minimise harm to the community.

Similar measures to those contained in the Policy were introduced in Newcastle in 2008. Evidence shows that in the first 18 months, there was a 37% decrease in alcohol-related assaults in the Newcastle CBD intervention area, and a reduction of almost 340 emergency department presentations per year. As of March 2015, alcohol-related assaults in the Newcastle CBD intervention area have dropped by 52% overall.

Evidence also shows that in the Newcastle CBD, between 2008 and 2015, there was a 110% increase in the number of licensed venues. In addition to reduced violence, there has also been evidence of a cultural change, with patrons pre-loading less, going out earlier and spending more money at venues.

Given the cultural change experienced in Newcastle, patrons will adjust their behaviour, beginning their night earlier to maximise time spent at their preferred venues. Like Newcastle, businesses will adjust their operating models to meet these changing patterns of behaviour. This will provide opportunities for growth for operators providing diverse offerings.

There are many vibrant international tourist destinations that cease the service of liquor at 2am, such as California, Boston, Toronto and Ottawa, while Ireland's latest allowable service of alcohol time is 2.30am. Stopping liquor service at these times in these locations does not lessen their desirability as tourist destinations, because consuming alcohol late at night represents only one facet of their overall tourism offering. In addition, the 3am cessation of liquor sales, with a 1:30am lockout, was voluntarily adopted by a number of venues on Queensland's own Sunshine Coast many years ago. The Sunshine Coast has remained one of Queensland's premier tourist destinations despite the fact that none of the venues in its Safe Night Precincts have traded after 3am in recent years and a number of venues operate a 1:30am lockout.

The Chief Executive of the Queensland Tourism Industry Council, Daniel Gschwind, has publicly stated that alcohol-fuelled violence is bad for tourism. Mr Gschwind has been supportive of the measures in our Policy, as he believes they will improve the tourism industry's reputation, and reduced violence and aggression in entertainment areas is likely to attract more customers, enhance business opportunities, and deliver better visitor experiences.

The Government is dedicated to promoting Queensland's nightlife, and I do not think it is beneficial for people to talk it down.

An independent review of the measures introduced under the Policy will occur after 1 July 2018. This review will examine the operation and effectiveness of the measures.



Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

ESTIMATES 2016 PREHEARING QUESTIONS ON NOTICE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE AND MINISTER FOR TRAINING AND SKILLS

Question 16:

In relation to page 68 of the Service Delivery Statement, can the Attorney-General outline how this budget supports Queensland Community Legal Centres?

Answer:

This Government is committed to providing funding certainty for Queensland's legal assistance providers.

Historically funds from the Legal Practitioner Interest on Trust Accounts Fund (LPITAF) and Queensland Government Consolidated Fund have been used for the delivery of legal assistance services.

Legal assistance services are free or low cost legal services for Queensland's most vulnerable and disadvantaged people. They are an important part of ensuring fair and accessible justice for our community.

Since 2008-09 LPITAF revenue has been reducing and can no longer meet these funding commitments. This is due to economic conditions and changes in the way in which solicitors operate their trust accounts.

On 1 July 2016, this Government commenced implementing a long term funding model, to ensure certainty and sustainability for this important sector. This long term funding model will mean that the legal assistance services delivered by not-for-profit community organisations (mostly Community Legal Centres) can continue to be funded triennially.

Funding of \$157.5 million over four years will be provided with ongoing funding of \$40.6 million per annum for legal assistance providers, legal profession regulation, and law library services. Of this, \$37.8 million over four years will be available for community organisations.

For 2015-17, 38 community organisations, of which 30 are Community Legal Centres, are funded to provide legal assistance services. Subject to a new procurement process for 2017-20, this funding will ensure certainty and sustainability for staff and clients of the successful community organisations.

The 2016-17 Budget will also support the continuation of the Women's Legal Service (WLS) Helpline. \$300,000 over three years has been allocated to WLS as part of the Government's overall package to respond to the *Not Now, Not Ever: Putting an End to Domestic and Family Violence in Queensland* report since the 2015-16 Budget.

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

2016 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No.17

THE LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE ASKED THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE AND MINISTER FOR TRAINING AND SKILLS (HON YVETTE D'ATH MP)—

QUESTION:

Can the Minister provide details about Federal funding for Training and Skills and the implications this has for the Queensland VET budget, with reference to page 17 of the SDS?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

In 2016–17, revenue for skills and training from the Australian Government will be \$483.3 million, including up to \$105.4 million through the National Partnership Agreement on Skills Reform (NPASR). Australian Government funds comprise about 43% of the Queensland Government's total budget for vocational education and training (VET) of \$1.1 billion in 2016–17. This year, \$810 million is available through Queensland's annual VET Investment Plan, an increase of \$195 million compared with 2014–15.

The NPASR expires in June 2017 and the Australian Government has given no indication that future funding will be made available. The 2016–17 Federal Budget includes a 'zero' for 2017–18 and beyond for the NPASR.

There is a risk that the NPASR will be allowed to just expire without being replaced. The Australian Government has recently let three other skills and training national partnerships lapse without replacing them. These include: the National Partnership Agreements on TAFE Fee Waiver for Child Care Qualifications (expired end of 2014 – valued at approximately \$1.8 million per annum); Training Places for Single and Teenage Parents (expired end of 2014 – valued at approximately \$5.7 million per annum); and the Joint Group Training Programs Project Agreement (expired end of 2014–15 – a loss of \$2.5 million per annum). As a result, Queensland is more than \$10 million worse off each year.

State and territory Ministers have been clear with the Australian Government Minister that negotiation of future funding should have already started. At the very least, an extension of the NPASR should have been offered to give confidence to industry, employers, training providers and students about future funding availability. Instead, the Australian Government Minister further delayed any discussion until November 2016.

If the Australian Government does not continue NPASR funding, in 2017–18 the Department of Education and Training will have to reduce funding levels across many of the VET Investment Plan programs. Any reduction in Australian Government funding, no matter how

short-lived, is highly likely to have a sustained negative impact on Queensland's prosperity given the importance of skilling for jobs that drive economic growth.

Queensland is the only state to experience an increase in student numbers in 2015 — up by 7.3% — as well as having increased subject enrolment rates that rose by 10.6% (Source: NCVER Government Funded Students and Courses 2015). The Palaszczuk Government has achieved this outcome while also restoring TAFE Queensland as a premium training provider and focusing on improving the quality of training delivered by private and public providers.

Funding certainty from the Australian Government will ensure Queensland can continue to successfully skill Queenslanders for jobs that provide economic and individual prosperity.

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

2016 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No.18

THE LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE ASKED THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE AND MINISTER FOR TRAINING AND SKILLS (HON YVETTE D'ATH MP)—

QUESTION:

With reference to page 43 of the Service Delivery Statement, could the Minister provide examples of what the Rescuing TAFE funding has delivered?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

A key component of the Queensland Government's Working Queensland election platform was a commitment to Rescuing TAFE and restoring its status as the premier public provider of vocational education and training (VET) in Queensland.

Specifically, the Rescuing TAFE commitment of \$34 million over three years includes funding to our public training providers, including TAFE Queensland, to subsidise student support services, foundation skills for disadvantaged learners, regional support programs, second chance training opportunities, and to increase the courses available under VET in Schools.

As of June 2016, more than 2700 students have enrolled in Rescuing TAFE supported courses through TAFE Queensland.

In addition to more students accessing training, part of the Rescuing TAFE funding has also been utilised to provide increased student support services.

A total of 66 additional positions have been provided across the state within TAFE Queensland and other public providers under the Rescuing TAFE commitment.

These new positions include important roles such as: Disability Support Officers; Student Support Officers; Job Placement Officers; Educational Support Officers; and Indigenous Support Officers who supplemented existing student support services, enhancing the student experience and enabling students to achieve the maximum benefit from their studies.

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

2016 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No.19

THE LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE ASKED THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE AND MINISTER FOR TRAINING AND SKILLS (HON YVETTE D'ATH MP)—

QUESTION:

In relation to page 7 of the Service Delivery Statement, could the Minister outline the progress of Jobs Queensland since its establishment?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

The Palaszczuk Government established Jobs Queensland as an independent statutory entity to provide strategic industry advice to Government on skills demand and future workforce planning. The *Jobs Queensland Act 2015* came into effect on 4 January 2016.

The Jobs Queensland Interim Reference Group had its first meeting on 28 January 2016 and has been driving the implementation and progress of Jobs Queensland by establishing strong governance, operational frameworks and structures. This has included the set-up of the Jobs Queensland office in Ipswich and the recruitment of secretariat staff.

The Jobs Queensland Interim Reference Group has been meeting monthly, chaired by Ms Rachel Hunter. Ms Hunter has provided leadership for Jobs Queensland to progress work on workforce planning in areas such as the tourism industry, the workforce strategy for the National Disability Insurance Scheme, identification of key workforce skilling issues for emerging and innovative industries in Queensland and the training needs for the 2018 Commonwealth Games. Jobs Queensland has also been involved in the workforce planning for industry roadmaps as part of the *Advance Queensland* initiative.

In addition to this substantial body of work and involvement with key stakeholders, Jobs Queensland has also been actively establishing relationships with key industry bodies, such as Energy Skills Queensland, Master Electricians Australia, Construction Skills Queensland and the Motor Trades Association of Queensland.

Ms Hunter has been appointed as Chairperson of Jobs Queensland from 14 July 2016 for a period of three years, which will assist the continuity of the strong progress made by Jobs Queensland to date.

The appointment of Jobs Queensland members has also been progressing to bring together a strong and independent group, able to provide whole of economy leadership on determining skills priorities and advising the government of the workforce planning requirements for Queensland into the future.

A widely advertised expression of interest process has been utilised to attract Jobs Queensland members with expertise in vocational education and training (VET), and specialised knowledge in areas relevant to Jobs Queensland's functions, including research, economics, finance and workforce planning. This expression of interest process closed on 18 July 2016 and 259 applications have been received. The members who are recommended to me by the Department as a result of this process and through a direct nomination process for employer and employee representatives will be considered by the Government and members of Jobs Queensland will be announced in due course.

The work to date shows that Jobs Queensland has an important role in leading and advising on critical workforce issues for Queensland. I am also focussed on ensuring that Jobs Queensland possesses strong economic and labour market expertise and frameworks so the advice it provides to Government will appropriately influence and position the direction of the Queensland labour market and training sector over the next five to 10 years.

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

2016 ESTIMATES PRE-HEARING

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No.20

THE LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE ASKED THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE AND MINISTER FOR TRAINING AND SKILLS (HON YVETTE D'ATH MP)—

QUESTION:

With reference to page 11 of the Service Delivery Statement, can the Minister outline the success of the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program with specific reference to the North Queensland region?

ANSWER:

I thank the Committee for the question.

I am pleased to advise that the Palaszczuk Government has delivered on a key election commitment and reinstated the highly successful *Skilling Queenslanders for Work* (SQW) initiative.

SQW represents a significant investment of \$240 million over four years to support up to 32,000 Queenslanders into work, further training or back into education through a suite of targeted skills and training programs.

In 2015–16, 384 projects worth around \$57 million were approved to provide nationally recognised training, skills development and traineeship opportunities to more than 14,000 disadvantaged Queenslanders.

In 2015–16, in the North Queensland region, 29 SQW projects worth \$3.9 million were approved to assist 1177 disadvantaged Queenslanders. This included an additional five projects worth more than \$905,000 identified from the second funding round to support skilling opportunities in the North Queensland region following local employment impacts.

The Palaszczuk Government acknowledges that without these projects, and the tailored assistance provided from the funded community based organisations, thousands of individuals across Queensland would not have the opportunity they now have through SQW.

Current SQW participation rates across projects in North Queensland are encouraging – 74% are youth aged 15–24 years, 43.6% are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders, 20.8% are from a culturally and linguistically diverse background, 59.9% are long term unemployed, 7.3% are people with a disability, 10.5% are underemployed or low-skilled workers and 6.1% are mature age 45 years and over.

In addition to the local SQW projects, the SQW First Start program provides wage subsidies to local councils to employ additional trainees. The program offers opportunities to young people and disadvantaged jobseekers to gain nationally recognised qualifications and 12 months' employment by undertaking a traineeship.

In 2015–16, 12 local councils located in North Queensland were awarded \$750,000 to assist 60 young people or disadvantaged jobseekers into a 12 month traineeship.

The first funding round of 2016–17 closed on 7 April 2016. A total of 26 applications were received for the North Queensland region worth \$3.9 million.

The Premier announced the results of the first funding round for 2016-17 on 19 July 2016. 192 projects across Queensland worth \$33.3 million were approved that will provide assistance to approximately 7,500 disadvantaged Queenslanders. More specifically, 16 projects worth \$2.5 million were approved that will provide nationally recognised training, skills development and improve job opportunities to residents of North Queensland.

I am pleased to be able to provide this response to the Committee today and confirm that through this Government's commitment to jobseekers, SQW is making a difference to the lives of Queenslanders.

Questions Taken on Notice and Answers



21 July 2016 Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee Attorney-General and Minister for Justice – Question taken on notice

Question:

How many CCC staff are dedicated to crime fighting and how many to anti-corruption?

Answer:

For 2016-17, the FTE of positions is:

		150.33 (total)
•	Corruption division (including Corruption Legal):	76.3
•	Proceeds of Crime division:	25.46
•	Crime division:	48.57

Additionally, there are positions embedded in the following divisions that provide support to crime and corruption activity:

		338.92
		188.59 (total)
•	Corporate Services + Exec:	79.89
•	Legal Services (excludes Corruption Legal):	11
•	Policy & Research:	11
•	Intelligence:	33.2
•	Witness Protection & Operation Support:	53.5

(total FTE)

21 July 2016 Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee Attorney-General and Minister for Justice – Ouestion taken on notice

Question:

What evidence and/or figures did the Electoral Commissioner rely on that FPV will lower the informal vote?

Answer:

- The Queensland Parliament operates under a unique structure, and therefore to layer other experiences on Queensland electoral procedures would not be an equitable comparative.
- Queensland State general elections prior to the introduction of FPV have a range of informality of 2 4%.
- I also take the opportunity to reiterate that the current informality rate for the Toowoomba South by-election is 3.3%.
- I stated previously that this is the first by-election the Commission has conducted under FPV legislation.
- The Commission is not in a position to comment on the experiences and practices of other jurisdictions that administer FPV.
- Within the ambit of the Commission's control, we will use our own experiences to improve elector awareness to lower the non-deliberate informality rate. The Commission does not have control over external influences which result in an elector casting a deliberate informal vote which does occur in both OPV and FPV systems of voting.
- The Commission is committed to continuing to improve the informality rate through robust training of our electoral officials and detailed public awareness campaigns through traditional, electronic and social media and advertising.

21 July 2016 Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee Attorney-General and Minister for Justice – Question taken on notice

Question:

Antony Green graph on informal vote. What would be the reason for the difference?

Answer:

- The Commission notes that statistically the informality rate in Toowoomba South State elections has been on the rise since 2009. Since 2009 there have been three Queensland general State elections under OPV; the graph demonstrates an increase from 2009 of less than 2% to just below 3% at the 2015 general State election.
- I would suggest that informality rates are a result of much broader issues of which I have no control over for example public engagement and not simply restricted to a particular system of voting.
- Further, to draw comparative between State and Federal informality rates is complex due to the differing number of candidates, electorate size, culturally and linguistically diverse communities and level of political advertising.

Documents Tabled





TOM SNOWDON

PARTYGOERS' hopes of the State Government relaxing contentious lockout laws have been dashed after Police Minister Bill Byrne yesterday did a U-turn on the rules to take effect next year.

It comes as police said they would be out in force this weekend checking the new booze laws were obeyed.

On Thursday, Mr Byrne had appeared to hint he would look at relaxing the lockout laws if the tough "no shots" rules, in effect from yesterday, helped to reduce

No alcohol will be served after 2am in suburban and country pubs

No alcohol will be served after 3am in the state's 15 entertainment precincts

alcohol-fuelled violence. "Let's just wait and see what happens," he said. "I have an open mind to all sorts of propositions from time to time."

But Mr Byrne last night insisted the full lockout

measures would go ahead as planned from February.

"There will be an independent review in July. 2018," Mr Byrne said.

Last drinks legislation, in part restricting the sale of alcohol after 3am, began yes-

Education and Training

Department of





Jobs Queensland Board Members

"Jobs Queensland is part of our broader plan to make Queensland's vocational education and training sector the strongest and most productive in the nation."

"The work of Jobs Queensland will improve our ability to target our training programs towards the needs of the future. This will ensure that individuals can access training where the jobs are so they get the most out of their training and that businesses have access to the skilled and productive workforce required to drive economic growth."

The Honourable Yvette D'Ath MP, Attorney-General, Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills

The Minister is seeking expressions of interest from people with relevant experience and technical expertise in areas including vocational education and training (VET), economics, workforce planning, and accounting or financial management, who are interested in becoming members of the Jobs Queensland

The Jobs Queensland Board will be a strong and independent group, able to provide whole of economy leadership on determining skills priorities and advising the government of the workforce planning requirements for Queensland.

Women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, persons from cultural and linguistically diverse backgrounds and persons from regional and remote communities are encouraged to apply.

Desirable skills and attributes of potential Board Members

Successful applicants will possess strong commercial and financial acumen, strategic vision and have the drive, commitment and motivation to make an exceptional contribution to Queensland's future skills and training initiatives.

The skills and attributes of Jobs Queensland Board members will include:

- Expertise in the economic and financial drivers of labour market and industry skilling issues in the context of the broader economy.
- Leadership capabilities to shape strategic direction, including applying critical thinking to skilling needs and workforce planning.
- Strong knowledge of skills and industry workforce planning processes and requirements and how this connects with the VET sector.
- Risk management expertise, including experience in managing areas of major risk in the context of the broader VET sector, as well as at an organisational level.
- Ability to consult and maintain meaningful key stakeholder relationships with government and industry at
 a high level.
- A broad understanding of the skills and training issues facing Queensland businesses at all levels across industry sectors.

Positions will be remunerated in accordance with Queensland Government guidelines. To ensure board stability, appointments will be negotiated for variable terms of between two and four years.

A limited number of organisations will also be approached to provide suggested employer and employee representation nominees directly to the Minister.

To apply please forward your resume and covering letter to jqboard@edenritchie.com.au. For further information contact Ms Justine Eden, Director, Eden Ritchie Recruitment 07 3230 0033.

Applications close 18 July 2016



Filmen 35/III

Cabinet-In-Confidence	NOT GOVERNMENT POL	ICY DRAFT FOR E	DISCUS	SION ONLY	Queens	land Econo	mic Action	rPlan	
Action items	Description	Status	Implement	Create jobs	business Investment	Higher productivity	Improve Iiveability Benefit	Environmental sustainability	Fiscal sustainabilit
Job Creation 1.01 Establish Jobs Queensland		Election	Easy	Medicum		Low			
A \$46 million Advance Queensland Future Jobs Strategy, which will open the door to new industry/research collaborations,		Existing	Easy	Mestram		Low			
Legislation introduced in State Parliament to facilitate the necessary 1.03 environmental approvals for the continued operation of Mount Isa copper smelter		Existing	Easy	Low					
A \$76 million Business Investment Attraction package support proof-of- 1.04 concept projects, and attract co- investment through the Business Development Fund.		Existing	Easy		Medium	Low			
A 25% payroll tax rebate on .05 apprentice and trainee wages		Existing	Easy	Mediam					
10% of workers on major .06 government projects are apprentices and trainees		Election	Easy						
.07 Improve job apportunities for locally trained registered nurses		Election	Easy			130			
.08 Supply and Demand Action Plan		Existing	Easy			Medium	THE REAL PROPERTY.		
Establishment of a Rural Job Agency in conjunction with Industry to 1.09 provide greater opportunities for facilitating the employment of rural workers with rural employers		Election	Easy	104					
QLD Government work program - The 2015-16 capital program focused on ensuring a consistent flow of works to support jobs and the economy and reduce the risk of backlogs emerging		Existing	Easy	Low.					
Status: Proposed - new idea proposed by Economic Po	•	Key: Easy Difficult	Easy to imp	plement	-		Medium: Me	pact on the economy dium impact on the apact on the econom	economy

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Inquiry into the conduct of the 2016 local government elections, the referendum on fixed four-year terms and the by-election for the State Parliament seat of Toowoomba South

- A That the Review Panel inquire into and report on all aspects of the conduct of the 2016 local government elections and the referendum on fixed four-year terms and related matters including:
 - 1. the form, content and design of communications with electors (including, the voter information letter, arguments for and against the referendum and postal votes);
 - 2. the adequacy of public advertising of the arrangements for the election including advising of boundary changes and booth location;
 - 3. the advantages/disadvantages of attendance voting vs full postal voting;
 - 4. the costs of the elections to local government and the perception that Councils can conduct elections on a more cost effective basis;
 - 5. the adequacy of processes and planning in preparation for the election including preparation of the electoral roll and approval of how to vote material;
 - 6. the adequacy of pre-polling arrangements including location and resourcing of pre-poll booths, staffing levels and distribution of ballot papers;
 - 7. the fulfilment of the responsibilities of returning officers;
 - 8. the conduct of poll/pre-poll voting including reports of voters experiencing long queues; booths running out of ballot papers; voters being unable to vote in their electoral district; voters being provided ballot papers for the wrong ward; closure of previous booths; conduct of polling officials during voting; conduct of candidates and their volunteers; and slow delivery of postal ballot papers to eligible electors;
 - 9. the recruitment of staff, including the adequacy of ECQ's staffing levels, any conflict of interest in recruitment, and the training and knowledge of staff;
 - 10. issues arising during the counting process including allegations of missing ballots, the slow speed of the count and the conduct of scrutineers;
 - 11. the timeliness of the declarations of seats in cases where the outcome of the poll is already determined;
 - 12. refusal to recount requested polls, including where the outcomes were extremely close:

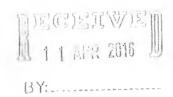
- 13. the effectiveness of the use of technology by the ECQ such as the computerisation of the electoral roll; use of bar scanning technology, access to and user friendliness of the ECQ website and its ability to cope with high volume demand in reporting election results
- 14. the role of technology in providing improvements for future elections such as improving access for certain classes of electors, enabling speedier counting of votes and less counting errors;
- 15. response to alleged unlawful behaviour;
- 16. any learnings from other Australian jurisdictions which promote the effective conduct of elections; and
- 17. practical and procedural differences in the conduct of a referendum in conjunction with local government elections (for example, under the *Local Government Electoral Act 2011* voters are unable to vote at a voting booth outside their electoral division whereas they are able to do so for a referendum) and the impact on ECO staff and voters.
- B That the Review Panel also inquire into and report on all aspects of the by-election for the State Parliament seat of Toowoomba South, including the matters listed under A above to the extent they are relevant.



IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE YOUR REFERENCE CONTACT TELEPHONE ABN 69 195 695 244

Exec ECQ 293 Walter van der Merwe





11 April 2016

The Honourable Yvette D'Ath MP
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice
Minister for Training and Skills
Member for Redcliffe
GPO Box 149
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Dear Attorney-General

With reference to the recent events of the State Referendum and the Local Government Elections please find attached a review regarding my Commission's performance.

Should you require further information regarding this matter, please contact myself, on (07)

Yours sincerely

Walter van der Merwe Electoral Commissioner





Review of LG16 and Referendum

Electoral Commission of Queensland

Author Dermot Tiernan Date: 6 April 2016 Version Final 1.0



Review of LG16 and Referendum Electoral Commission of Queensland

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Executive Summary

The 2016 Local Government quadrennial elections, combined with the referendum on fixed four-year Parliamentary terms, was the largest electoral event ever conducted by the Electoral Commission of Queensland (ECQ / the Commission).

In total ECQ conducted 438 separate electoral events delivering 668 results for that day. This figure was made up of:

- 77 Mayoral ballots;
- 218 councillor ballots for divided council areas;
- 284 councillor elections in 54 undivided council ballots; and
- 89 separate referendum ballots.

This was the largest centrally coordinated local government election ever undertaken by the Commission, and occurred in tandem with a State referendum. The Commission managed 1,787 candidate nominations for these elections, more than ever before.

During the course of the election process ECQ received criticism from parts of the community about various matters.

Chief amongst these was the speed of the count. These events catered to a record 3.02 million Queenslanders now on the electoral roll, meaning over nine (9) million ballots were circulated and counted. In addition, the events also involved up to three (3) different voting and counting methodologies in many parts of the State as well as the introduction of optional preferential voting for all mayoral ballots for the first time.

It is understandable that stakeholders want results as soon as possible after the close of polls on election day. During a State General Election ECQ mobilises a small army of between 6,000 and 8,000 employees to deliver a result on the night for 89 electorates. Such an outcome is just not possible for 579 local government positions – the labour, information and technology (IT) requirements and logistics of delivering such an outcome would be staggering.

Criticism of the speed of the count may seem like a harmless attack on an institution or a group of officials, but is it much more than that. The 8,829 Queenslanders employed to conduct and count these 579 local government events, and the 89 State referendum events, worked extremely hard on the day and in the days and weeks preceding and following 19 March 2016. These people are the Commission, and do not receive the thanks and praise they deserve for delivering a public service that is fundamental to our democracy.

Criticism also focused on the publication of count results on the Commission's website and news feed from that site. At the start of the evening on election night our systems were not up to the standard I would have wished.

Although the Commission operated within its technical capabilities, these are no longer satisfactory and ECQ has consequently commenced a process to invest in more modern

information technology infrastructure to cater for future events. I am pleased to advise that the Government allocated funding in the 2015-16 State Budget to replace the Commission's Strategic Election Management System (SEMS), and that investigations have commenced with CITEC to ensure reported internet issues do not mar future events.

Finally, ECQ was heavily criticised for the presentation of the arguments supporting and opposing the referendum question. This criticism was unfounded, as the arguments were presented in compliance with the relevant legislation and the controversy actually helped stimulate debate in the community. The outcome created history, the first Queensland referendum to be carried since 1910.

The Commission recognises that local government elections are fully cost-recovered events. So the Commission made a concerted effort to partner with each council to both limit the cost burden for rate payers and to build understanding across our institutions.

The Commission also rolled out innovations in 2016. To maximise efficiency this was the first election ever staged in Queensland involving no paper electoral rolls. ECQ also demonstrated innovation through the inclusion of telephone voting, a pilot of ballot paper scanning, electronic certified lists, electronic look up and mark off devices, a new declaration vote envelope for postal voters and an online training system for staff. In addition the Commission ramped up its social media presence to extend its reach in the most cost efficient method available.

There were issues with some of these innovations and with the information technology systems the Commission relies upon. Problems with access to the Commission website on election night were caused by the ageing SEMS and management of the Commission's internet traffic by service provider CITEC.

In previous years a central tally room has provided a central point for all media outlets to access results as they were received. This approach has been abandoned as modern media outlets have diversified their approach to providing news and commentary on electoral matters and events. These different programming choices are all reliant on ECQ's technology however, and the significant media contingent all over the State working on election night created an additional test for our processes.

This report presents a frank analysis of the planning for the 2016 elections and referendum, and of the issues and problems experienced in delivering this complex service to the Queensland community.

I have also listed some recommendations to improve service delivery for future elections, be they local government or State.

The Commission appreciates the support it received whilst planning for the referendum from members of Parliament, the Departments of Justice and Attorney-General, the Premier and Cabinet, and Treasury.

Finally I wish to acknowledge the dedication and effort of the staff of the Electoral Commission and of the 8,829 Queenslanders who worked for the Commission during the election period.

Walter van der Merwe

Electoral Commissioner

fro. Van der Merwe

Context

Local Government elections

The Electoral Commission of Queensland (ECQ / the Commission) has expanded considerably to encompass responsibility for all local government elections and changed election funding and disclosure requirements. ECQ is now responsible for all local government elections, except Weipa. These requirements are additional to the ongoing need to be ever ready to conduct a State General Election or State or local government by elections, conduct industrial elections, and to deliver the statutory roles of State Redistribution Commission and Local Government Change Commission.

ECQ measures its success according to the following terms:

- ECQ provides certainty for electors and candidates by delivering elections according to statutory timeframes with results that withstand scrutiny and challenge;
- · electoral funds are fully disclosed and audited;
- ECQ expertise is acknowledged and sought in Parliamentary and policy debates;
- ECQ delivers innovative and efficient electoral processes for staff, voters and candidates resulting in a positive customer experience designed to continuously improve;
- internal financial controls comply with Queensland Government standards; and
- ECQ delivers local government elections in partnership with councils.

The 2016 Local Government quadrennial elections (LG16) entailed 579 electoral processes, being 77 Mayoral ballots and 502 Councillor representatives across 272 council divisions and undivided council areas (the latter with between four (4) and ten (10) councillors).

Local Government elections are complex undertakings as the number of candidates and individual polls far exceeds that of a State General Election (502 local government elected representatives as opposed to 89 State Members of Parliament). Further, the types and sizes of the elections makes it a more complicated and challenging event due to:

- council enrolments range from 155 electors to over 720,000;
- two (2) voting systems are used (see below) requiring two (2) lots of training, checking and assurance; and
- the mix of full postal ballots, part-postal ballots, and attendance ballots.

Counting systems

Following changes to the *Local Government Electoral Act 2011* all Mayoral contests were subject to an optional preferential voting counting system in LG16 (see Attachment 1). Although there was some criticism in the media of this in some areas, most notably Southern Downs Regional Council, this is the system used at State elections, so the *Commission was confident voters and staff would not be confused by the change.*

All undivided councillor contests remained first past the post (FPTP) (see Attachment 1). This is a labour intensive counting system, particularly in larger council areas (e.g. Toowoomba Regional Council and Mackay Regional Council). In practice this means the councillor votes must be counted several times, usually the number of councillors

determine the number of times the ballots must be counted. Recognising this, the Commission implemented a ballot scanning pilot project to expedite the counting process (see innovation section below).

In the Brisbane City Council electorate, an additional Notional Preference Count is also conducted.

Referendum

Announcement of the referendum on fixed four-year Parliamentary terms followed extensive consultation involving Parliamentarians (via the Finance and Administration Committee), ECQ, and the Departments of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC) and Justice and Attorney General (DJAG). These consultations resulted in amendments to the *Referendums Act 1997* to bring it into line with modern electoral legislation (e.g. allow unrestricted prepoll voting and postal voting).

The running of the referendum in tandem with LG16 meant the event was the largest event ever undertaken by ECQ. In effect the Commission ran 579 council related polls, and 89 polls for the referendum.

This meant the planning for the referendum had to mirror, but not match the planning for LG16, as the referendum is to be reported according to 89 State electoral districts, which do not match the 77 local government boundaries (see Attachment 2).

ECQ Gateway project

In 2015 ECQ made a submission to government seeking funds to replace the bespoke Strategic Elections Management System (SEMS). These funds were approved in the 2015 - 16 State Budget and planning for a request for tender process is advanced for this project (called the ECQ Gateway).

SEMS is a useful IT system that was designed and developed between 2004 and 2006 by CITEC. It was first utilised in the 2006 State General Election. As a bespoke system it requires full time professional coding support from external contractors on a day-to-day basis. The system was originally designed to only deliver State General Elections and by-elections. Following the local government amalgamation process that took place across Queensland in 2008-09, SEMS was amended to manage the then 73 local government elections. Following the de-amalgamations polls that took place in 2012-13, the system was amended again to manage elections for the now 77 local governments.

SEMS also had to be amended in 2015/16 to include functionality to manage referendum events. The rarity of referenda (the last one occurred in 1992), and the dependence on external contractors meant that many ECQ staff were not aware CITEC had not included referendum functionality in SEMS when it was originally commissioned. As a result the Commission had to invest heavily in coding and programing in late 2015 and early 2016 to ensure SEMS could deliver the referendum.

Given the dependence on external contractors to run even day-to-day functions, the fact that it is no longer 'fit for purpose', and the troubles SEMS and its components experienced

during LG16, the ECQ Gateway project presents a well-timed opportunity for critical infrastructure renewal.

The ECQ Gateway project also presents an opportunity to progress necessary and unavoidable cultural change across the Commission. The average age of ECQ staff across the Commission has decreased to approximately 42.5 years and the median age is approximately 37.5 years. This represents a significant reduction and follows retirements and numerous recruitment processes undertaken in 2015 to fill long term vacancies. It also represents a significant risk given 19 staff (approximately 35% of the workforce) are currently able to, or will be able to retire within the next four (4) years. To mitigate this risk ECQ has commenced a succession planning project, but this will need to be complimented by the ECQ Gateway project, to ensure that the Commission has both the tools and the expertise to run future electoral events (state or local government).

The ECQ Gateway Project, succession planning project and general improvements to internal business practices constitute a significant and challenging modernisation initiative.

ECQ modernisation

Since being appointed as Commissioner in July 2014, Walter van de Merwe has implemented a program of modernisation supported by the appointment of Dermot Tiernan as Assistant Electoral Commissioner in late 2014. These appointments consolidated the support necessary for championing business improvement within ECQ's Executive that had been limited under previous administrations.

The Commissioner commenced the modernisation initiative when he became aware of substandard business practices that had become established within ECQ. These sub-standard practices have resulted in budget overruns and increased operational risk during the conduct of election events.

The vision of the modernisation initiative is for ECQ to be recognised for excellence in electoral administration. To achieve this vision steps are being taken to:

- instil public sector values in ECQ staff and establish a constructive workplace culture;
- implement strategic and operational planning;
- implement appropriate internal governance and reporting frameworks;
- · review and address information and technology requirements; and
- review and address business practices.

When fully implemented the initiative will ensure ECQ meets, or exceeds, relevant performance management standards and is regarded as a highly transparent and accountable organisation.

Modernisation challenges

In September 2015 the Cabinet Budget Review Committee noted the challenges and costs of maintaining the outdated software ECQ uses to manage elections (SEMS) and approved funding for its replacement. New election management software will significantly improve ECQ's ability to deliver open, fair and transparent elections.

A dedicated project team has been assigned to ensure that the procurement process for the new software meets ECQ's business requirements and all relevant information and technology procurement standards.

Replacement of the election management software is occurring alongside an external review of business practices. This is critical to ensuring that ECQ maximises the potential benefits a new system can deliver. It is also part of a broader change management process encouraging staff to identify what needs to change for ECQ to achieve its vision.

To this end, in February 2016 ECQ engaged independent professional experts to conduct an external review of current business practices. The review has been timed to overlap the LG16and State referendum. The review process includes interviews with directors and key staff, group workshops and anonymous surveys to illicit information about current operational practices. A report will be produced for the ECQ executive that includes analysis of information gathered and recommendations for business processes or those that should be continued, altered or ceased.

It is expected that the report from the independent review will be used by ECQ's executive to implement required changes to ensure ECQ meets or exceeds relevant performance management standards and is regarded as a highly transparent and accountable organisation.

The modernisation initiative has been challenging for staff unfamiliar with the performance standards typically required of government departments.

The ECQ executive has endeavoured to implement the modernisation initiative with regard to:

- the personal wellbeing of staff;
- the fact that many of the processes critical to the running of election events are reliant on either problematic software and/or undocumented protocols; and
- the need to deliver the 2015 State Government election and the 2016 Local Government quadrennial election and State referendum.

ECQ has made significant progress in improving the transparency and accountability of its current business process and is committed to further improvement. It is envisaged that throughout 2016-17, significant improvements will be made to ECQ's operational and business practices.

Policy expertise

ECQ does have intimate knowledge of and experience with electoral law and processes. Since late 2014 the Commission has made a concerted effort to build its strategic policy capability. This was demonstrated when the Commission appeared before the Finance and Administration Committee of the Queensland Parliament on 28 October 2015. ECQ was invited to discuss the potential for holding a referendum in early 2016. The Commission utilised this opportunity to suggest several changes to legislation to ensure the referendum

could take place, and changes that would make future elections more manageable should the referendum be approved (e.g. the timing of a set date election should not coincide with the wet season).

ECQ suggested a range of amendments necessary to modernise the *Referendums Act 1997*, all of which were eventually adopted. The key amendments were to bring the *Referendums Act 1997* into line with the *Electoral Act 1992* by:

- relaxing the access requirements for electors to utilise postal voting and pre-poll voting; and
- introducing the concept of electronically assisted voting.

Further amendments were progressed under the steerage of DJAG to allow a referendum to occur on the same day as a local government election.

Planning

Partnership and consultation with local government

Given local government elections are cost recovered, ECQ undertook engagement with the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ), the Local Government Manager's Association (LGMA), and individual councils to ensure LG16 was delivered as efficiently as possible and that all parties understood the justifications for decisions taken.

To this end, ECQ wrote to all councils in March 2015 and again in May 2015 seeking input on methods to save rate payers money in delivering the 2016 quadrennial event. Discussions focussed largely on the number of polling places and funding office accommodation for Returning Officers (ROs) and polling places that were reasonably priced or owned by Council that could be utilised for LG16. The final decision to cut polling places was left to Councils, after the cost of manning booths that took relatively few votes was explained.

Councils generally reacted positively to the partnership approach, with nearly 60% of Returning Officer (RO) accommodation being provided by councils. Further, agreement was gained to cease utilising polling booths that took very few votes, except where alternative sites imposed an unreasonable travel burden on voters.

ECQ conducts monthly meetings with senior staff from the Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (DILGP). These meetings discuss policy issues, but specifically in relation to LG16 covered:

- electoral boundary change updates stemming from the 2015 Local Government Change Commission process;
- Ministerial approval or otherwise for councils seeking permission to conduct full
 postal ballots. By 6 February 2016, when the advertisement was placed by the
 Electoral Commissioner announcing the elections, 20 councils had sought and gained
 Ministerial approval;
- general updates on planning and consultation with councils and representative bodies; and
- specific updates on innovations to be rolled out or piloted at LG16.

These meetings were in addition to other written and verbal briefings provided to DILGP and other agencies.

On the passage of the Constitution (Fixed Term Parliament) Referendum Bill 2015 (the Referendum Bill), consultation was broadened to include the DJAG, DPC, and Treasury. The Electoral Commissioner, Assistant Electoral Commissioner and the Directors of Elections, Operations and Planning (EOP) and Funding, Disclosure and Regulation (FDR) worked with these agencies to develop a defensible and efficient budget for the combined LG16 and referendum events that would ensure an effective result. This budget was set at \$26.2 million, including a \$3.2 million 'discount' to be apportioned across all 77 local governments in the State in recognition of the sharing of resources to run the referendum

Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ)

ECQ senior staff met with senior representative from the LGAQ on 24 April and 26 June 2015 to discuss planning for LG16 and the importance of presenting a united front to councils and rate payers. ECQ clearly outlined its strategy for cost minimisation, including polling places reviews and RO accommodation and polling in council premises at these meetings. Attendees at these meetings included Greg Hallam, Chief Executive Officer (one appearance), Greg Hoffman, General Manager Advocacy, and Josh O'Keeffe, Intergovernmental Relations.

The parties met again on 25 August 2015, with senior representative from DILGP and the LGMA for further updated briefing. Following passage of the referendum Bill the group convened again on 18 December 2015 with senior representatives from DJAG, DPC and Treasury.

These meetings were very successful and ECQ has established vastly improved working relationship with LGAQ (compared to the 2012 event).

Local Government Managers Association (LGMA)

After the 24 April 2015 meeting with LGAQ, ECQ expanded its consultative reach to include the LGMA. Luke Wallace, Legislative Compliance attended the meetings mentioned above on 25 August and 18 December 2015.

In addition, the Assistant Electoral Commissioner spoke at the LGMA 'Governance Village' in Townsville on 21 October 2015 about the planning for LG16 and the partnership approach. This meeting was targeted at council governance and finance managers, the people who:

- received the March and May 2015 correspondence from ECQ seeking to partner with councils;
- receive the annual Local Government Elections Branch invoice that ECQ provides to councils so as to ensure the Commission is ever ready to run by-elections and fresh elections should the need arise; and
- will receive and assess the invoice sent by ECQ for elections.

The focus of the Townsville 'Governance Village' was regional councils, enabling ECQ to gain a reach that would otherwise have been cost prohibitive.

CEOs of Western Shires (CoWS)

The LGAQ hosts a meeting of CoWS and invited ECQ to present at its 20 November 2015 meeting. The Assistant Electoral Commissioner gave a similar presentation to that delivered to the LGMA 'Governance Village'. This was the first time ECQ had engaged formally with this group, although the ECQ Director, EOP is well known to each of the CoWS.

Returning Officer visit program

Throughout the six (6) weeks of the election campaign ECQ Senior Management Team members undertook to lead a series of visits to ROs across the State. Staff from across the

Commission, and one interstate staffer on secondment from the Tasmanian Electoral Commission for the election, also participated in the visits.

The purpose of these visits was to support our key staff in the field, to establish personal connections and put names to faces for head office and front counter staff, and to hear from ROs and their staff about specific issues that make their jobs more challenging than they might need to be and to see the impacts first hand.

The following ROs were visited during the election period:

- Brisbane City Council The Gabba and Hamilton Wards;
- Burdekin Regional Council;
- · Cairns Regional Council;
- Charters Towers Regional Council;
- Douglas Regional Council;
- Gold Coast City Council;
- Ipswich City Council;
- · Lockyer Regional Council; Logan City Council;
- Mackay Regional Council;
- Mareeba Regional Council;
- Mount Isa City Council;
- · Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council;
- Redland City Council;
- · Tablelands Regional Council;
- · Toowoomba Regional Council;
- Townsville Regional Council; and
- Whitsunday Regional Council.

Election Timetable

Election timetables for LG16 and the referendum were published in line with statutory requirements (see Attachment 3).

Planning Governance

In response to its internal review of ECQ performance in the 2015 State General Election, the Commission's Senior Management Team agreed to establish a permanent Elections Planning Board to provide governance for planning and delivery of all State and local government electoral events.

Election Planning Board

LG16 was the first election run by ECQ that was systematically planned. In 2015 the Commission invested heavily in its staff and developed the 'Electoral Event Planning A Strategic Approach' (see Attachment 4). This is the first time such a document has been developed by ECQ for internal staff to understand all that goes into running a successful election.

ECQ also hired an independent project management expert to assist the Commission through its first election run using modern project managerial tools. Complementing this, all projects that go into delivering a successful event were identified and each assigned a project leader. These officers then developed a project plan, and from that a project budget and time frame. The budgets were developed in consultation with ECQ's Business Services finance area, and the timeframe was fed into a LG16 Gantt chart (see Attachment 5). Once the commitment to deliver the referendum was made, a separate Gantt chart was developed to ensure all referendum specific projects were appropriately managed.

The Gantt charts provided a 'dashboard' for the Commissioner to understand how each elements of the election process was progressing and informed discussion at Election Planning Board meetings. For the first time, the Commissioner had access to:

- a daily 'dashboard' of progress on all LG16 projects;
- daily updates on ECQ personnel and their performance against milestones;
- · trends across Divisions on progress; and
- the ability to spot and address 'road blocks', silos or inefficiencies.

This increased managerial oversight was based on the acceptance that the ECQ Senior Management Team is very aware that the Commission is accountable to councils, as councils are to ratepayers for costs.

ICT Project Board

Complementing the Elections Planning Board and to progress the ECQ Election Gateway project, ECQ also established an ICT Project Board during 2015. This Board was responsible for approving all major expenditures in the ICT space, and for approving all changes to the SEMS system.

The quality of documentation accompanying requests for decisions provided to the ICT Project Board reflected the time pressures facing the Commission following the passage of the *Referendum Bill*. Formal briefings were replaced by written 'conversations' in the Commission's Basecamp portal. While this is transparent, it does not necessarily meet the governance requirements expected of a public sector entity to which ECQ strives.

To address this, the Commissioner requested that the Director, ICT, prepare detailed briefs on IT related events that occurred during the election period and how these were managed.

Development/Budget

To support improved project management, the budget for LG16 was subject to significant consultation with project leads and Divisional Directors. Each election project was allocated an individual cost collector so that progress could be mapped on a weekly basis. As a result the budget is now a 'Commission-wide' responsibility, rather than one solely for Business Services finance officers to manage.

The budgeting process involved forecasting of expenditure, a first for ECQ staff outside the Business Services Division. While not perfect, this was a good innovation as it engenders

greater ownership and responsibility for project management and should be continued in all future events (see Recommendation 1).

Staffing

ECQ is required to employ a significant amount of staff to ensure electoral events can be successfully held. Listed below is a breakdown of additional staff employed for the Local Government and State Referendum Events.

Project	Staff numbers
Polling Booth Election Day	6937
RO Office	828
Both RO office and Polling Day	748
(additional staff that worked across both)	
Returning Officers	102
Payroll	8
Mail Project	5
Central Postal Voting	23
Telephone Voting	5
Call Centre	94
Unenrolled project	25
Telephone Voting	10
Auditors (out in the field)	16
ICT (ECL & ELMO)	26
Contact Officers	2
TOTAL	8829

Reporting / tracking

During the 2015 election it was not possible for the finance area to provide meaningful weekly finance updates or track expenditure. Significant work during 2015 by that team ensured the successful introduction of weekly finance 'traffic light' progress reports in the weeks leading up to and during LG16. This was a significant advance for ECQ and one that should be commended.

Post event survey

After each electoral event ECQ conducts a satisfaction survey across all of its key client areas. The LG16 survey covered the different ways of casting a vote with survey forms sent to each of the following categories:

- ordinary (attendance) voters;
- postal voters;
- pre-poll voters; and
- telephone voters.

The Commission is also conducting surveys of other key stakeholders. As the returns at this stage are still being collated, the analysis will be included in the full survey report. These stakeholders are:

- all candidates contesting the election;
- Council CEOs;
- ROs;
- polling officials; and
- Commission staff.

The surveys assess satisfaction with key operational objectives such as: the quality of information supplied by ECQ including the Voter Information Letter (VIL); the convenience and effectiveness of the call centre and other contact options; and, the impact of ECQ advertising and utilisation of the website for key information. The survey also seeks to determine satisfaction levels with the service provided at polling booths and to gauge desired methods of voting in future.

Interim results are based on 1,380 surveys returned by 31 March 2016 from 10,000 distributed across the State in polling booths and on-line via the Commission's website and Facebook page. Overall, feedback from electors and other stakeholders received to date has been positive.

Attendance voters

From the 634 responses received to date:

- 32% reported they waited longer than ten (10) minutes to cast their vote; 74% found ECQ polling staff heipful; and 85% found the polling booth was in a suitable location;
- 85% found the polling booth presentation and accessibility to the room was satisfactory to excellent;
- Respondents would prefer to vote via the internet in the future (highest preference ranking 29 points), followed by a polling booth (ranking 24), pre-poll centre (ranking 20), with postal voting (ranking 18) being their least preferred voting method; and
- 68% found the Voter Information Letter to be informative and useful.

Postal voters

From the 359 responses received to date:

- 91% received a Voter Information Letter in a timely manner, with 85% finding the information useful;
- 75% received their ballot material in a timely manner, and 53% found the instructions clear and easy to use; and
- 64% experienced problems with the Postal Voting process, mostly due to late arrival and/or the material did not arrive.

Pre-poll voters

From the 290 responses received to date:

• 85% found the Commission's pre-poll staff helpful;

- 71% found their Voter Information Letter to be informative and useful, with 75% finding Electronic Mark-off more efficient than paper lists;
- 73% found the polling booths/office was in a suitable location and 79% found the presentation and access was satisfactory or better; and
- 66% of respondents had to wait less than five (5) minutes to vote with 23% waiting longer than ten (10) minutes to vote.

Telephone voters

From the 97 responses received to date:

- 75% indicated they would have voted at a polling booth previously, with the majority expressing how difficult this was for them;
- 92% strongly agreed or agreed that telephone voting is a beneficial service; and
- 98% indicated they would use this service again.

Issues

Speed of counting

LG16 was the largest centrally controlled local government election ever held in Queensland involving:

- 77 Mayoral ballots;
- 502 Councillor ballots:
- the implementation of optional preferential voting all Mayoral ballots for the first time:
- first past the post counting for Councillor positions in undivided councils;
- · optional preferential counting for Councillors in divided councils; and
- 89 referendum ballots in State electorate that do not align with the 77 local government area boundaries;
- a Notional Preference Count in the Brisbane City Council election.

This unprecedented complexity had to be managed within an environment of unprecedented budget scrutiny for ECQ. Local government elections are cost recovered exercises where councils pay for the service, and ECQ was granted a fixed sum of funds to conduct the referendum and partially subsidise LG16.

Critiques of the speed of the counting processes are actually a criticism of ECQ's temporary workforce in the field – the nearly 9,000 people hired across the State to conduct the event. These people are hired for a short period, between one (1) day and eight (8) weeks. Whilst they are given training, they are expected to make zero mistakes. Should a mistake be made the Commission can be challenged in the Court of Disputed Returns (the Supreme Court of Queensland).

To any rational person or in any modern organisation this arrangement would be viewed as a highly risky proposition. Accordingly ECQ is risk averse and will not declare results until any mathematical chance of change is removed.

Unenrolled process

One key area where finalising a result may be slowed is the Unenrolled project, involving the scrutiny of declaration votes taken. Essentially elector details are checked against the data contained in the second roll close (in this case the electoral roll as at 18 March 2016). If electors who submitted a declaration vote are found to be on the roll their ballots are admitted to the count. If not, they are set aside. This is a labour intensive manual process involving SEMS and the RMANS system the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) uses to manage the electoral roll, and therefore it takes time.

For LG16, project plans for all election projects were due to the Election Planning Board in May 2015. No project plan was developed for this project, so commencement was unnecessarily delayed as was provision of these ballots to ROs across Queensland. In future ECQ Directors must ensure all election projects are properly planned, scoped and budgeted (see Recommendation 2).

Information Technology

LG16 was the most IT dependent electoral event ever attempted by ECQ. There were issues, errors and complications as a result of this, but overall the local government elections and the referendum were delivered without major technical fallure. However some areas did experience problems.

Internet connection - results availability

On election night ECQ's ability to publish early results was comprised by the Commission's security or firewall provider CITEC interpreting the enormous increase in traffic to the ECQ website as a possible denial of service (DoS) attack.

In a normal business week the ECQ website may receive 6,000 or 7,000 hits. Throughout LG16 this number was exceeded constantly, but on election night that number was dwarfed by user demand. Due to the increase in traffic directed at the ECQ website, the CITEC DoS Protect service, which was operating in 'Defending Mode' for ECQ, automatically triggered as a result of detecting an overload of inbound traffic to the ECQ server. The DoS Protect service throttles traffic when this occurs to allow the server time to catch up with requests.

ECQ contacted CITEC and advised the increased traffic volume to the ECQ website was legitimate traffic due to LG16 and the referendum. Consequently, to prevent traffic to the ECQ website from being throttled by CITEC's DoS Protect service, ECQ requested at 8.15pm that CITEC change the configuration to 'Logging Only', allowing ECQ website traffic to progress unhindered. Within minutes the ECQ service was restored to full service.

This disruption to service was unforseen by ECQ, however future events must ensure earlier consultation with all service providers to avoid embarrassment and criticism (see Recommendation 3).

Election Results Information System (ERIS)

The ERIS component of SEMS was never designed to cope with more than 89 electoral events at any one time. On 19 March 2016 from 6pm it was managing 438, and it experienced difficulty. Essentially the system could not cope with this level of activity and struggled to process the quantum of data in a timeframe that was considered acceptable to election watchers (i.e. the media, commentators, some mayoral candidates). The system did not 'crash' per se, but it did struggle and delays were experienced.

Due to the late build of the SEMS coding for a referendum, there was little if any time to test the work in a 'mock' election environment. The Commission did run a 'tally night test' on 8 March 2016, during which this error did not occur. This requires further investigation (see Recommendation 4).

As the postal vote results for the referendum were entered it became apparent that some errors were present in ERIS as votes from full postal council areas were being counted multiple times. ECQ immediately ceased publishing results when the error was made apparent (on Monday 28 March 2016) and a full investigation commenced the following day. By close of business 29 March2016 results were being published once again.

As the SEMS functionality for a referendum was not finalised until February 2016, the likelihood of an error like this occurring was worryingly high. Whilst not an adequate justification, managing this sort of risk must be seen as part of the normal business of running a major IT and logistical exercise such as was required on 19 March 2016. Further, the fact that the 'fix' was completed within a very short period of time is a complement to the work of the ECQ's IT and Elections Support and Change Commission (ESCC) Divisions. It would appear that the swift action taken by EOP staff to identify the error and report it saved the Commission considerable embarrassment, and should be commended.

Brisbane City Hall system connection issues

Two issues affected the timely start of polling at Brisbane City Hall on election day. No other polling booths were affected as all other booths were utilising the Electronic Lookup and Mark Off (ELMO) and Electronic Certified Lists (ECL) technology on the day — City Hall however, utilised the 'office in a box' direct link to SEMS.

- 1. Polling was misconfigured in the system to end on 18 March 2016 at 6.15pm, not 19 March 2016. This was due to an error in the events creation process in SEMS. The issue was identified and resolved by 8.20am on election day in SEMS, however it took a further 40 minutes for the changes made to become operational 'in the field' at City Hall.
- 2. Polling staff were misconfigured in the SEMS event due to being attached to a 'councillor event' rather than a 'mayoral event'. In essence this meant the polling staff could only assist electors from a particular Ward rather than the whole of the City of Brisbane and the other six (6) south east Queensland councils being serviced from City Hall. The issue was identified and resolved by 9.10am on election day in SEMS, but again it took a further 40 minutes for the changes made to become operational 'in the field' at City Hall.

Although the SEMS issues were IT problems in nature, the root of the error was actually in two (2) other areas of the Commission.

Firstly the decision by EOP to run the City Hall booth using 'office in a box' rather than using ECLs or ELMOs, as was the case in every other booth on polling day across the State. The reason for this made sense — pre-poll across the State was via 'office in a box' and to change would have entailed a major re-kitting out of City Hall on the night before the election. However it was also based on the idea that we could mimic the ECL process from 2015 where ballots were printed out, except on that occasion the ballot printing process was managed via the laptop, not via SEMS as is the case with 'office in a box'. The decision exposed ECQ to a serious IT risk which was not well managed by the EOP or IT Divisions (see Recommendation 5).

Secondly, the creation of the electoral event at the start of the election by ESCC. This reflects a cultural issue for ECQ of poor documentation of IT systems and operational protocols in general, in this case the creation of an event, tracking of an event, or reconciliation of results (see Recommendation 6).

The impact was queueing outside City Hall for most of the day, as although the issues were resolved, the booth did not fully recover from the delay at opening until late in the afternoon. Despite the long delay, electors were patient.

Polling place - roll look up

ECQ did receive anecdotal advice that some ECLs and ELMOs displayed different rolls at various booths on polling day. No evidence was provided to substantiate any of these claims, however initial investigation by ECQ staff revealed a possible cause of the confusion was that the polling official had not ticked the box 'include all councils', which would allow them access to the State-wide electoral roll. If this was the cause, it is unfortunately, further evidence that some polling officials did not complete the training module.

As this was raised on numerous occasions, the Director ICT has undertaken to investigate more fully (see Recommendation 7).

Returning Officer Staffing System (ROSS)

ROSS is the suite within SEMS that manages the hiring and payment of temporary staff who work for the Commission during the election period. ROSS operates an Attaché payroll system and overall governance for this is provided by a project manager within the Business Services Division.

Attaché payroll

During the election period the project manager identified that an incorrect Masterfile was entered into Attaché (a 2011 version), which resulted in:

- incorrect superannuation payments being arranged the project manager identified and resolved this issue before any payments were made;
- incorrect customer identifier number in Attaché which didn't match our customer identifier number in CommBiz (the Commonwealth Bank of Australia's online transactional banking channel); and
- extra fields in employee files, which affected the input file and had the potential to delay payment to staff.

When errors were identified and resolved, a manual update was required to all the 'companies' (i.e. each RO is listed as a company within Attaché to align with the programing of that platform and provide transparent budgeting and costing).

ECQ's Human Resources team also identified an issue with payslips resulting from failure to install the Alex system that generates e-mails to staff on the computers in the payroll team. This was an oversight, but one that could have been avoided through better planning by the Directors of ICT and Business Services. The software was installed after the election commenced, alleviating the need for laborious and repetitive manual work-arounds.

Finally, there was a problem with the team being unable to produce a super file (i.e. a file that contains all the details of all staff employed under the Attaché system). This required

an upgrade to Powerlink (a reporting program that runs alongside Attaché) which produces the report that ECQ provides to QSuper (see Recommendation 6).

Boundary / Roll issues

The electoral roll in Queensland is managed on a fee-for-service basis by the AEC under a Joint Roll Agreement. ECQ relies on the AEC for accurate and up to date roll products including, amongst others:

- certified lists (i.e. electoral rolls used for elections);
- reference rolls for candidates; and
- silent elector rolls that protect the identify and whereabouts of those individuals.

After the close of rolls on 12 February 2016 and the delivery of the VIL, errors in the allocation of electors to local government divisions started to be identified by ECQ staff and electors. From a relatively small issue in Ipswich the extent of the error soon spread to impact on 1,332 electors in the following council areas:

- Fraser Coast 89 enrolled in Division 6, but living in Division 8;
- Fraser Coast 3 enrolled in Division 5, but living in Division 8;
- Ipswich City 139 enrolled in Division 10, but living in Division 5;
- Moreton Bay 190 enrolled in Division 9, but living in Division 8;
- Redland City 78 enrolled in Division 3, but living in Division 6;
- Redland City -410 enrolled in Division 6, but living in Division 3;
- Redland City 47 enrolled in Division 4, but living in Division 6;
- Sunshine Coast 75 enrolled in Division 1, but living in Division 3;
- Sunshine Coast 291 enrolled in Division 3, but living in Division 1; and
- Tablelands 10 enrolled in Division 10, but living in Division 1.

ECQ staff wrote to all impacted electors via Express Post advising them of the mistake and to take the enclosed letter with them to the polling booth. Those discovered late in the electoral process were contacted via telephone wherever possible. This scrambling effort deserves praise as it showed ECQ was willing to 'go the extra yard' to provide correct service and protect the reputation of the Commission once the errors were identified.

Although all the councils impacted were subject to internal boundary review during the 2015 Local Government Change Commission process, the ECQ's ESCC team was reluctant to attribute any of the errors to that process. Rather, the fault was attributed to the AEC's 2015 move from Census Collection Districts (CCDs) to Statistical Areas (SA1s) for the roll. The consequences of this change was that Queensland went from a collection of 3,000 CCDs to a collation of more than 11,000 SA1s, so transcription errors were highly probable, if unfortunate.

Delays incurred at the tail end of the Local Government Change Commission process in 2015, which resulted in delivery of the boundary changes, as approved by the Governor, to the AEC just prior to the 2015 Christmas break. These delays were not unavoidable, but they ensured a truly consultative redistribution process. The impact of the delays was that ECQ did not receive an updated roll until two (2) weeks prior to the commencement of the election period. This did not provide adequate time to run all the data checking processes that the ESCC Division would normally conduct on the roll products.

All maps presented on the ECQ website and provided to ROs across the State were 100% correct, however these were not finalised nor delivered as early as many ROs would have wished. This was due largely to the fact there was not a project plan developed for this particular election project, so no timelines were developed and key partners were not consulted.

Noting the importance of this matter, the Commissioner wrote to the AEC on 11 March 2016 expressing disappointment with this performance and seeking a commitment to improve business processes so that it does not occur in future.

ECQ has undertaken to review all its specifications for all roll products sourced from the AEC and to develop and commit to detailed project planning for development and confirmation of electoral boundary maps as presented to the Queensland public (see Recommendation 8).

Polling places

Closure of booths

As outlined earlier, LG16 was run from the start in partnership with councils across the State. ECQ wrote to all 77 councils in March and May 2015 inviting suggestions for cost savings measures. Principal amongst these were the closure of polling booths that either took few votes at the 2012 local government election, or were in close proximity to other booths.

ECQ advertised all polling places in a 20 page advertisement in The Courier Mail newspaper in the week before polling day, yet received criticism from candidates and some electors about the closures. This criticism is misdirected as all booth closures were undertaken on the written instruction or agreement of councils. In future these decisions should be elevated in pre-event communications (see Recommendation 9).

Queues

ECQ has received some criticism for the queues at booths. There were indeed substantial queues at many booths throughout the State. While queueing is considered normal at the start of polling day, the fact that the queues endured into the afternoon does require more investigation by ECQ.

Some anecdotal evidence has been provided that there was a causal relationship between queues and reduced booth numbers and staffing levels within booths. Further, anecdotal claims have been made that booth efficiency was impacted by a reduction in staff. As closures were a factor of council consideration and consultation, ECQ accepting sole criticism for this is difficult, so more in-depth consideration is required (see Recommendation 10). This must include:

- the 'table weighting' applied for booths;
- the efficacy of asking people to work from 7am through to close of count, rather than a split shift;

- a statistically defensible number of votes taken to justify operation of a booth; and
- education and awareness planning for the community so that the criticism for booth closure is better mitigated.

Supply of ballot papers to realigned booths

There has been further anecdotal evidence of insufficient supply of ballots papers at some booths, necessitating transport of ballots around some local government areas. All complaints related to council areas in south east Queensland. The necessary movement of ballot papers on polling day is not unusual in Queensland elections and given the redistributions conducted by the Local Government Change Commission in 2015 for Logan City and Redland City, this was not unusual.

The completion of LG16 will better inform planning for the 2020 quadrennial elections.

Training

In response to unfocused expenditure for the training of staff during preparation for the 2015 State General Election, ECQ committed to modernise its approach to training employees appointed for electoral events. The Commission entered a contract with a third party provider, Scytl, to develop an online learning management system (LMS) for all election staff.

This produced a cost reduction of over \$200,000 in training costs, mainly by removing the need for face to face training involving transport and accommodation of several hundred staff, and payment of kilometric allowances for several thousand more.

The LMS also allowed ECQ to:

- better monitor whether election staff have completed training, a process that was wholly dependent on ROs in the past;
- standardise delivery and content, which can be difficult to control during person-toperson sessions; and
- allows ROs to concentrate on running the election, not training staff, which few are experts at.

ECQ has requested a detailed report from Scytl involving feedback from the company's perspective, as well as that of ECQ staff (EOP and ESCC staff) and ROs (see Recommendation 11)

Webinars

In line with the training program ECQ also hosted four (4) 'webinars' or video conferences with ROs across the State during the election period. These were well received and did not encounter problems with band width or communications. They were well received by ROs and well accepted by ECQ staff and should be continued for future events (see Recommendation 12).

Contact officers

For the 2015 State General Election ECQ hired six (6) temporary staff to act as Contact Officers for ROs. They would field process questions, generally. The post event review raised issues with this approach, namely:

- the cost was not inexpensive and the effectiveness was hard to manage;
- the standardisation of advice was very difficult (e.g. up to six (6) slightly different answers could be provided to the one question); and
- the project meant ECQ head office staff missed a valuable opportunity to interact with ROs in the field and learn about the pressures of running an event on the ground.

To address these matters, an amended approach was adopted for LG16 whereby two (2) temporary Contact Officers were hired and ECQ staff from IT, ESCC and EOP acted as Contact Officers. This was a successful model and should be continued for future events (see Recommendation 13).

Voter Information Letter (VIL)

Once the Parliament committed to the referendum, ECQ revisited an earlier decision not to produce a VIL for LG16. The initial decision was based on economics — the VIL is not cheap, costing approximately \$1 for every person on the electoral roll in Queensland (by close of rolls that was 3.02 million people).

The inclusion of the referendum on the same day as LG16 created the potential to confuse electors, so a VIL explaining the person's details and the State electorate as well as council and (where appropriate) council division was progressed.

ECQ received some criticism for this project, specifically in relation to:

- confusion caused in full postal council areas the VIL targeted an attendance ballot, although it did list all 20 of the full postal councils;
- confusion caused for postal voters generally some electors interpreted the VIL as
 their postal vote and were angered by the absence of ballot papers (n.b. many of
 these people had not registered to receive a postal vote, indicating some lingering
 lack of awareness of electoral processes in the broader community); and
- receipt of a VIL by silent electors this was a serious error, as silent electors have numerous and serious reasons for being categorised that way. Some felt ECQ had potentially compromised the secrecy of their address, including the Commissioner himself.

The explanation for the manner in which the project was delivered is simplistic:

- it was a time constrained project as it was decided late in the process, there was no project plan for the VIL and therefore little chance for deliberation; and
- the VIL provided the platform through which ECQ could guarantee it met its statutory obligations to deliver the arguments in favour and against the referendum to all electors.

Other pertinent factors to note about this project were that the VIL had to arrive with electors before any postal vote because the referendum arguments were contained in the VIL mail out. This delayed delivery of approximately 25,000 postal votes by two (2) days, but it ensured electors had all the information regarding the referendum in front of them before they were presented with a ballot paper for that event.

The VIL process for future elections will have to be amended, and lessons learned from this year's event written in to future project plans (see Recommendation 14).

Executive Council engagement

Following the review of the 2015 State General Election ECQ Senior Management agreed that changes were required within the ranks of the Commission's ROs. To effect this, a process was agreed whereby all 102 ROs required for LG16 would be appointed as an RO or Assistant RO under the *Electoral Act 1992* by the Governor in Council. The 102 number is arrived at by having one RO for each of 76 councils, and one for each Ward within the City of Brisbane (the decision to appoint an RO to each Ward in Brisbane was taken on the advice of Brisbane City Council).

A draft Executive Council Minute was prepared by the ECQ Executive, which attached two (2) schedules listing the names of those to be appointed by the Governor and those to be removed from appointment. This material was provided to DJAG for progressing to Executive Services within DPC on 1 February 2016.

Upon receipt of the draft Minute, ECQ became aware of multiple errors in the Schedules and corrected these. An amended and final set of schedules was provided to DJAG on 8 February 2016, but this version was not used and the draft version went to the Governor in Council for approval on 25 February 2015. This mistake was identified the week preceding the referendum and steps were taken to ensure the result could not be brought into question.

Legal advice

Three (3) matters were referred for external legal advice during the election. One (1) matter relating to a possible injunction involved briefing an external legal advisor, but legal representation was not required. The matters were as follows.

- Three (3) nominations received by the RO for the Torres Straight Island Regional Council were accepted without candidate signature on the nomination form. The oversight was identified after the deadline for resubmission had passed, so advice was sought as to the validity of the nominations and the possible application of the Electronic Transactions (Queensland) Act 2001, allowing the Commission to accept the nominations. The nominations were deemed valid on application of Division 2 of the above Act. This advice may have application in future electoral events.
- Action was lodged in the Supreme Court against ECQ after an applicant asserted that s.25 of the Local Government Electoral Act 2011 (i.e. Calling for Nominations) was not satisfied in that The Courier Mail was not a newspaper circulating generally within the local government area of Aurukun Shire Council and therefore Notice of the Election was not published as required. The Supreme Court dismissed the

- application deciding that the Court of Disputed Returns was the more appropriate forum for this matter to be heard.
- Under s.31 of the *Electoral Act 1992* the Governor in Council may appoint an elector as the RO for an electoral district. As a result of multiple errors (as submitted by DJAG to Executive Council), an amendment to the Executive Council Minute was submitted to the Governor in Council and signed on 18 March 2016 correcting the errors and a Government Gazette Notice declaring the appointments was published that day.
- ECQ was invited to join an application for Injunction lodged in the Supreme Court by the ALP against the LNP for the Brisbane City Council ward of Tennyson on election day. The application related to unauthorized how to vote cards being distributed. The Commission had previously advised the LNP that the cards did not represent a ballot paper or indicate the distribution of preferences and therefore was simply 'election material' which did not require an authorization. The Commission did not join the action and the Supreme Court's findings validated the decision by the Commission.

A budget of \$45,000 was allocated to legal advice for LG16 and it is expected this will be exceeded, however the quantum is not yet known as ECQ is yet to be invoiced and the period to lodge action disputing the election of a person or the result of the referendum in the Court of Disputed Returns remains active until seven (7) days after the conclusion of the event.

Media management

The media management responsibly within ECQ rests with the FDR Division. The media strategy employed for LG16 was the most concerted effort ever made by the Commission to engage with broadcast media in particular. This was a considered decision made cognisant of the need to address the complexity of LG16 and the referendum.

The FDR Division coordinated with the executive and other divisions on how media was managed during this election. It was noted that, the 'on call' system for staff being available to address media questions did not correspond with electronic media publishing timeframes.

Traditional media

ECQ managed 1,241 enquiries to the media email inbox over the election period (i.e. 6 February through 19 March 2016) and a further 100 in the following week.

Working with McCalls Media, ECQ released 14 media releases across a range of topics including nominations, pre-poll, results and referendum matters during the election period. In the main these are planned to coincide with the electoral timetable. As in a business as usual situation, unplanned media releases were prepared in response to issues arising, either positive (e.g. record candidate numbers for LG16) or issues management (e.g. criticism of ballot paper scanning).

Over 45 interviews for electronic media were conducted by the Director FDR, Assistant Director FDR, and the Assistant Electoral Commissioner. These were mostly for radio, but

two (2) television interviews were conducted, one (1) for a democracy in practice documentary for a Japanese network and an interview with Channel 7 Mackay.

In terms of advertising, responsibility was split between FDR and EOP – the former managing the community information campaigns, the latter managing the statutory advertising requirements. In future these responsibilities should probably be run out of one Division (see Recommendation 15).

Building on that, ECQ may gain greater traction with the media and general public if there were a coordinated plan managed from a single point, developed well in advance outlining a program of media messaging and engagement based around week-long themes. This should form part of the RO training package so that message across the State on the ground is consistent (see Recommendation 16). Example themes could include:

- Week 1 update your enrolment and/or nominate;
- Week 2 nominations process;
- Week 3 statutory advertising;
- Week 4 pre-poll;
- Week 5 human interest and television/radio/print; and
- Week 6 polling day.

Media Kit

A Media Kit was developed and published upon the launch of the website for LG16. The focus of the kit was local government not the referendum. The kit was published on 6 February 2016, but it had not been approved by the Commissioner. Due to multiple factual errors and omission of approval, the Media Kit was removed the following week. A revised Media Kit with approval from the Assistant Electoral Commissioner was produced, but not published due to a misunderstanding in relation to a final approval.

For future electoral events a Media Kit should be revisited, and include information on voting systems as well as key elections dates and information on how the election will be managed. This will be particularly useful in regional areas where ECQ limited advertising budget does not penetrate as deeply as the Commission would desire (see Recommendation 17).

Social media

In terms of social media LG16 and the referendum was the most active event ECQ has ever run. The Commission now has over 6,100 followers on Facebook (an increase on 2,500 followers in the last six (6) months of the election period). In comparison the AEC has 500 followers, the New South Wales Electoral Commission 31 followers, and the Western Australian Electoral Commission eight (8) followers.

ECQ made 40 election posts during the election period, including daily posts during final weeks. These included election announcements and human interest stories to engage electors and stimulate further interest. The most successful post reached 56,000 people.

ECQ's successful social media presence did create a resource impost, including after-hours monitoring to respond to genuine queries or moderate individual posts to remove offensive, obscene and political commentary.

The Commission also used social media to broader its reach with particular sectors of the community. ECQ released information videos on Postal Voting and, using AUSLAN, on the arguments for and against the referendum.

Innovation

Ballot scanning pilot

Counting of FPTP votes in undivided councils is a laborious task and very slow. Given population increases in regional Queensland, some undivided councils are now of significant size. Because of the way FPTP voting works, a ten councillor undivided council means all votes need to be counted ten times each, a monumental task. Traditionally this has been done via a cardboard 'frame' – each frame of ten can take several minutes to count.

To address this issue, ECQ decided to pilot in the larger undivided council a trial of ballot paper scanning with a target of counting approximately 100 votes every three to four minutes. The trial was to be run in the following local government areas (each has its enrolment listed):

- Gladstone 39,766;
- Livingstone 24,073;
- Mackay 75,279;
- Noosa 37,757; and
- Toowoomba 107,950.

The system was simplistic in that the scanner essentially photographed each ballot paper, then the software read each one. The software could distinguish between numerals, sorted the ballots into virtual piles of votes for each candidate. Supposed informal votes were set aside for decision by the RO. Scrutineers were provided with a screen to view the votes as they were processed.

There were issues with the technology on polling night as all ROs using the technology attempted to scan postal votes in the first instance. Postal votes were chosen because these votes could be counted and uploaded to SEMS — the system only allows data entry for each booth once (i.e. updates are not allowed so that once ECQ publishes figures from a booth it does not change), so the thinking was postal votes could be included as a 'booth'.

The scanning process had not been tested with postal ballots and this proved to be a serious problem – the folds on the ballot papers were read by the system as marks and therefore most ballots were set aside as informal. It was not until late in the night that this issue was isolated. The scanners were set to work on polling day and with pre-poll votes and that issue disappeared. Counting of postal votes in the larger councils required the employment of more staff, which was an unforseen expense. Interestingly, the Mackay RO stored his council's postal votes while other ballots were being processed, flattening them, after which the scanning system worked without issue.

A new issue arose at this stage though, and that was the laptops that accompanied the scanners seemed to struggle to cope with the amount of data being generated and analysed by the machines. The laptops did not crash, but because they had insubstantial processing capability they were slow and this then caused further delays. The contractor for this project, Upflow, had set the specifications for the laptops, so ECQ was caught off-guard.

ECQ received substantial criticism for the management of this project. Most criticisms focussed on the slow speed of the count. However, when viewed as the pilot project that it was, and subject to final budget outcomes, the ballot scanning project should be viewed as a success and included in future events; subject to more analysis of computing processor requirements (see Recommendation 18).

Electronic Lookup and Mark Off (ELMO)

Electronic look up devices had been used for queue control and voter identification during the 2015 State General Election. This was done using the Commission's 3,000 tablets and proved very popular.

Following the success of the trial of electronic certified lists (ECLs) also trialled at that election across 29 electoral districts in south east Queensland and in the all district centres, the Elections Planning Board agreed to utilise the same programing for LG16. Taking account of costs, it was agreed that the software would be modified to run on tablets not laptops and be called ELMOs. The tablet utilised would be the Commission's 3,000 and a further 2,000 to be borrowed from the NSW Electoral Commission.

The program was modified to allow for mark off as well as look up of electors. This removed the need for most of the paper lists that would otherwise have had to be programmed, printed, transported (in and out), scanned and stored.

The end result was that the same level of detail was recorded in relation to votes taken, time votes taken and locations, thus adding efficiency and greater granularity to any statistical returns. The project also entailed an industrial design component whereby a 'lap top cardboard desk' was designed to enhance user friendliness, as well as security (in compliance with the recommendations of the Inquiry into the '2013 WA Senate Election' by former Australian Federal Police Commissioner Mick Keelty (i.e. the Keelty report), and storage for pens and cleaning materials.

The main issue with the ELMO project is an anecdotal one; it seemed to get swamped by the ECL project. Because polling staff had seen it used as a roll look up device in 2015, there seemed to be an assumption that it was not to be used for marking electors off the roll. This is not an issue with the ELMO so much as the commitment to short term ECQ staff (ROs, Polling Booth Supervisors and Polling Officials) to actually undertake the training required. The ELMO is a simple to use device, but a possible assumption by staff that it was not capable of roll mark-off probably eroded the value proposition on this occasion.

ELMO's rely on the use of a stylus and are much slower to locate an elector as opposed to an ECL with a Barcode scanner.

The timeframes and development of this project went very smoothly, and this project was a credit to all involved. Should this technology be used in future, training will have to be better targeted (see Recommendation 19).

Electronic Certified Lists (ECL)

Following the announcement of the likelihood of the referendum, on 14 December 2015 the Elections Planning Board agreed to also progress ECLs on laptops as this would aid voter flow through polling booths and the technology was familiar to many staff.

The ICT Director estimated the project would have a net financial impact of \$1.9 million, based on an assumption that ECQ would purchase 6,000 laptops and re-sell all of them after the election for 50% of the purchase price. That resale value was adjusted down to 47% in January 2016.

As the project progressed it became apparent that the scope had not been adequately thought through and the Commission had to invest a further \$380,000 to purchase 4,500 bar code readers. Had the experience of the 2015 ECL project been assessed this cost may have been avoided.

The need to hire and re-hire staff, and requests to pay overtime (usually received the day before they were due) further illustrate that this project was not properly scoped, costed or managed.

Despite, or in spite of the above, the ECL project has delivered very well thus far (n.b. download of marks in still ongoing). This success is due to several factors:

- the development of a training module under the guidance of the Assistant Director,
 ESCC:
- familiarity of staff in the field after last year's trial;
- the ability to run an election without any paper lists (a first for Queensland); and
- flexibility and dedication of a handful of key IT temporary staff willing to work in less than ideal circumstances at the Coopers Plains warehouse and the training room at ECQ head office.

In future any commitment to ECLs must involve more consideration and improved project governance (see Recommendation 20).

Declaration Vote Envelope 1 (DVE1)

The review of the 2015 State General Election identified problem with the then current declaration vote envelope number 1 (DVE1). The key concerns were the small type face used to explain to voters the process to be followed – a seven (7) step process was described and the subject was alternatively referred to as a "voter" and then an "elector".

In early 2015 the EOP Division undertook to redesign the DVE1. The result was a simplified set of four (4) instructions and a Mayoral ballot paper attached to the DVE1 which electors could detach, mark and then insert in the envelope.

As this is a system employed by the AEC, ECQ was surprised by criticism that it eroded the secrecy of the vote – the envelope that is returned to the RO has the elector's details on it so that they can be marked off the roll as having voted. ECQ has processes in place to ensure the secrecy is protected and produced a video to this effect during the election

period. After a visit by the Leader of the Queensland Opposition, ECQ will investigate further enhancements to the DVE1 to provide greater assurance that the secrecy of an elector's vote is protected (see Recommendation 21).

The further work is also justified by a larger than normal amount of informal Mayoral votes, as electors failed to detach the ballot and place it in the envelope. This issue was identified in the first week of pre-poll, so ECQ took two specific actions:

- IT and FDR prepared a video for placement on the Commission's Facebook page explaining the postal vote process in full; and
- the Assistant Electoral Commissioner did four (4) interviews with regional radio stations explaining the need to detach and insert the Mayoral ballot.

The decision to continue to invest in postal voting is a complicated one. All electoral commissions across Australia are facing a common dilemma of Australia Post being a monopoly provider that is raising prices and lowering delivery certainty at the same time. ECQ has implemented a system of central postal vote registration and despatch to help mitigate the risk posed by Australia Post. In the past, postal vote applications were managed by ROs and subject to other pressures facing those officers, centralisation has removed the responsibility from RO and allowed the Commission to seek greater assurances and better pricing from the monopoly provider.

Telephone Voting

The success and strong positive community response to the trial of telephone voting for electors who are blind or have low vision in the 2015 State General Election ensured this would be repeated for LG16. Telephone voting involves two (2) steps:

- registration, where the voter identifies themselves, the operators confirm they are
 on the electoral roll with the telephone voting software. This sends a registration
 number to the elector and the voter selects a personal identification number (PIN);
 and
- voting, where the voter remains unidentified, but uses his or her PIN and registration number to participate.

After consultation with ECQ's 'Democracy in the Community' focus group the Commissioner agreed to expand the reach of the project to encompass those electors who are blind or have low vision, those with an impairment, and those who live more than 20 kilometres from a polling booth. The last category also covered those who were impacted by natural disasters.

FDR led the development of a Regulation to ensure the legality of all votes taken, and ESCC ran the project utilising two (2) call centres – one at Coopers Plains and one at Mary Street, in line with the recommendation of the independent audit of the 2015 trial. The support of the call centre manager at Coopers Plains merits mention, as she effectively volunteered to add another call centre managerial roll to her already substantial task.

At close of polls 486 people across the State had used telephone voting, including at least one elector impacted by inclement weather in the Croydon Shire Council area. This is not a

cheap way of collecting votes, but it is an inclusive method that is a relatively simple to institute and manage (see Recommendation 22).

Brisbane City Hall multi-council centre

For the first time the Commission trialled a 'multi-council' voting centre at Brisbane City Hall. The Commissioner declared the venue a polling place for the following councils:

- Brisbane City;
- Logan City;
- Redland City;
- Ipswich City;
- Gold Coast City;
- Sunshine Coast Regional; and
- Moreton Bay Regional.

This allowed residents within those local government areas who may work in Brisbane or commute through the city centre to cast an ordinary vote at the City Hall booth. The reaction from voters was welcome, despite technology issues that slowed the progress through the booth on election day resulting in significant queues for most of the day.

The counting process was also complicated, but this was expected. The key complicating factor was the inclusion of the referendum. As anyone on the roll can vote in any polling booth in the State for a referendum, the sorting of votes into the 89 State electoral districts and then counting, and then entering the results into SEMS was prolonged and it came on top of the sorting process for the 26 Brisbane Wards and the various Divisions in the other local government areas.

Regardless of the complications, the multi-council centre was a successful pilot, taking just over 6,000 votes on polling day and between 2,000 and 4,000 per day in the two (2) weeks of pre-poll. It should be continued for future events (see Recommendation 23).

B-point

Similar to B-Pay, B-point is the Commonwealth Bank of Australia's credit card only payment option. ECQ invested in this technology to speed up and simplify the processes and security surrounding accepting candidate payments, as it guarantees immediate transfer of funds, removing any need for bank cheques and cash.

The investment proved worthwhile (see Recommendation 24).

Policy Considerations

How to vote cards (HTV)

For LG16 ECQ had to manage a record 1,787 candidates across the State. Each candidate may produce HTV cards, subject to strict statutory requirements regarding election materials as defined in the *Local Government Electoral Act 2011*. Checking these requirements are complied with is a major resource impost for the Commission and ROs. There is a statutory deadline for submission of HTV card (i.e. close of business on the second last Friday of the election period), which results in delayed delivery of this material until this time. The Commission then has to approve and publish all HTV cards the following Monday.

During LG16 several mistakes were made by ROs in approving material that did not meet these requirements. All these errors were corrected; however they raise the question of whether the cost to monitor this activity justifies the benefit provided to the elector for local government elections.

ECQ will work with DJAG on possible policy and regulatory improvements in this area.

Pre-poll count

Noting the criticism of the slow progress of the count on election night, ECQ considered this might be addressed were a legislative change made to allow counting of pre-poll ballots before 6pm on polling day. This could be done in a secure environment (i.e. not allowing communication of results, similar to the 'lock out' employed at State and Federal Budgets) with relative simplicity and allow publication of results as soon as polls close.

ECQ will work with DPC and DJAG on policy considerations and, if approved, regulatory changes required to implement such an approach.

Recommendations

Recommendation 1 - All ECQ project leaders to develop detailed project plans and budgets (including forecasts of expenditure) for all election projects.

Recommendation 2 – All ECQ Directors to submit project plans and budgets for their election project to the Election Planning Board by 31 May in the year preceding an election event. A comprehensive list of projects and allocation of project management responsibility to be approved by the Election Planning Board in the second week of March in the year preceding an election.

Recommendation 3 – Director IT to ensure CITEC (or other internet protection service provider) is contracted to ensure unfettered access to the ECQ results web pages during all election events.

Recommendation 4 – Director IT and Director ESCC to deliver to the ICT Project Board an investigation of the performance of the Election Results Information System (ERIS) during LG16, and include changes to improve performance and costings of such changes, by17 June 2016. Terms of reference for the review should be submitted by 22 April 2016.

Recommendation 5 — Director EOP to ensure planning for City Hall and all multi-district or all-district polling booths include contingency planning for IT related failures.

Recommendation 6 – Director ESCC to document all processes for the operation of ERIS and submit to the ICT Project Board by 30 June 2016. Director EOP to document all ECQ operational protocols and submit to the Election Planning Board by 30 June 2016. Director Business Services to document all processes for the operation of ROSS and submit to the Election Planning Board by 30 June 2016.

Recommendation 7 - Director IT to deliver a report to the ICT Project Board by 17 June 2016 on discrepancies between roll look-up results on ECLs and ELMOs.

Recommendation 8 – Director ESCC to submit to the Election Planning Board all specifications for all roll products sourced from the AEC by 31 May 2016. Director ESCC to commit to detailed project planning for development of electoral boundary maps for events, in line with Recommendation 2.

Recommendation 9 – Directors of EOP and FDR to incorporate messaging regarding polling places (booths and booth closures) into election event media planning.

Recommendation 10 – Director EOP to deliver to the Election Planning Board a review examining the efficiency of polling booths during LG16 by 30 June 2016. Terms of reference for the review should be submitted by 29 April 2016.

Recommendation 11 – Director ESCC and Director EOP to require a detailed analysis of the learning management system from Scytl, involving feedback from ECQ staff and ROs, and provide this to the Election Planning Board by 31 May 2015.

Recommendation 12 – Directors of IT, EOP and ESCC to ensure webinars with ROs and polling staff to be incorporate into training for all future elections.

Recommendation 13 – ECQ to continue to utilise in-house staff to act as Contact Officers for all future elections.

Recommendation 14 – Assistant Director ESCC to submit a review of the VIL project to the Election Planning Board by 31 May 2016.

Recommendation 15 – Director FDR to assume responsibility for all advertising (statutory, community information, gazettal) for all future elections.

Recommendation 16 - Director FDR to submit to the Election Planning Board a program of media messaging and engagement (with media and all ECQ staff) for the election period three (3) months prior to the commencement of an election period.

Recommendation 17 - Director FDR to submit to the Election Planning Board a media kit (incorporating Recommendation 16) three (3) months prior to the commencement of an election period.

Recommendation 18 – Director EOP to submit a review of the ballot paper scanning system to the Election Planning Board by 30 June 2016. This review should include recommendations regarding infrastructure and process changes necessary to ensure a successful continuation of this pilot project.

Recommendation 19 – Director ESCC and Director EOP to review training for utilisation of the ELMO device and recommend changes to improve understanding of temporary ECQ polling staff.

Recommendation 20 – ICT Planning Board to ensure any future commitment to ECL utilisation must involve proper project planning in line with Recommendation 2.

Recommendation 21 – Director EOP to review design of the DVE1 (including costings) to address concern about vote secrecy and submit to the Election Planning Board by 30 September 2016.

Recommendation 22 – Assistant Director ESCC submit a project plan for telephone voting for future elections by 30 June 2016 in line with Recommendation 2.

Recommendation 23 – Director EOP and Assistant Director ESCC submit to the Election Planning Board a review of the Brisbane City Hall booth by 30 June 2016. The review should include analysis of lessons learned and how multi-district centres could be utilised for all future elections.

Recommendation 24 — Director Business Services review B-point and submit a plan to the Election Planning Board utilisation in future elections. The review should include feedback from candidates and political parties.

Acronyms

AEC	Australian Electoral Commission
DILGP	Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning
DJAG	Department of Justice and Attorney-General
DPC	Department of the Premier and Cabinet
ECL	Electronic Certified List
ECQ	Electoral Commission of Queensland
ELMO	Electronic look up and Mark off
EOP	Elections, Operations and Planning Division, ECQ
ESCC	Elections Support and Change Commission, ECQ
FDR	Funding, Disclosure and Regulation Discussion, ECQ
FPTP	First-Past-the-Post voting
ERIS	Election Results Information System
HTV	How to Vote (card)
LG16	Local government quadrennial elections 2016
LGAQ	Local Government Association of Queensland
LGMA	Local Government Managers Association
LMS	Learning Management System
RO	Returning Officer
ROSS	Returning Officer Staffing System
SEMS	Strategic Elections Management System
VIL	Voter Information Letter

Attachments

- 1. FPTP and OPV Counting Systems
- 2. Overlay of State and Local Government Electoral Boundaries
- 3. Election Timetable
- 4. Electoral Event Planning A Strategic Approach
- 5. TeamGantt LG 16









UNFOLD BALLOT PAPER



- Conforming
- **Non-Conforming** Informal

COUNT TEAM

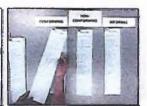
RESULTS TO BO

COMPLETED BATCHES ARE FILED SEQUENTIALLY OR BY BOOTH

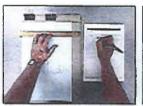
COUNT TEAM

RESULTS TO RO













EMPTY FRAMES RETURNED TO FRAMING TEAM



OPEN BALLOT BOX

SORT IN PILES

- Conforming
 Non-Conforming
- Informat

INFORMAL 2nd scrutiny COUNT INFORMALIS
A
RECORD

INPUT INTO DDE AS YOU GO

FRAME SET UP 9 Conforming + 1 Non-Conforming + 10 Hallot Papers, nech fram

PickPArit 10 x 15A Forms 154 1 x 160 Forms COMPLETE NAMES OF LO AREA, POLICINO BOOTH, GOUNTER, CANDIDATES AND RUMBER OF CANDIDATES SHEET NUMBER IS NUMBERING SYSTEM FOR COMPLETING 1,000 BALLOTS

COUNT ACROSS THE LINE FOR EACH CANDIDATE, RECORD VOTES ON FORM 39A & CALL-OVER TO DATA ENTRY OPERATOR AMMETERS ESPORT STRANGE

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10 BALLOTS TO A COUNT 10 COUNTS TO A SHEET 10 SHEETS TO A MASTER

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SHEETS COMPLETED THEN
EXCEL SPREADSHEET
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6000 + 6 (Number of candidates) = 1000 ballots

OAYE ORDERATOR TO SAME EXCEN SORREADERED TO HAMOURIE AND THE WITH SOLUTE NAME AND STRUCT YOMOL SAME

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SHEET NO COUNT NO

EXTRACT 10 BALLOTS FROM FRAME WITH YELLOW STICKER

PASS EMPTY FRAME BACK TO FRAMERS

TURN DOWNWARDS
ON TABLE STACK ON TOP OF
ONE ANOTHER
SEQUENTIALLY 10 COUNTS
OF 10

CONTINUE UNTIL YOU HAVE COMPLETED 10 COUNCILLOR WORK SHEETS

WRAP 10 WORKSHEETS AROUND PILE AND RUBBER BAND

COMMENCE NEW PILE
CONTINUE PROCEDURE
SEQUENTIALLY UNTIL A
MASTER SHEET IS FILLED
10 WORKSHEETS WRAPPED
AROUND 10 BUNDLES OF 10

RUBBER BAND ALL PILES TOGETHER AT EITHER END

STORE IN BOX, MARKED READY FOR CHECK-COUNT

FILING

FRAMING

COUNTING



First-Past-the-Post Count Summary

Councillor Count

Sorting Team

- 1) Unfold the ballot papers.
- 2) Sort ballot papers into conforming, non-conforming and informal.
- 3) Record any scrutineer objections on the back of the ballot paper with the decision (formal or informal). Set aside for Returning Officer verification.
- 4) Set the informal ballot papers aside to be verified and counted later by the Presiding Officer.

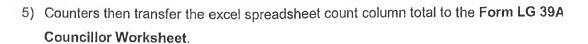
Framing Team

- 1) Clip 10 conforming or nine conforming and one non-conforming ballot paper onto the counting frame. Non-conforming to be on top, furthest to the right.
- 2) Repeat until all ballot papers have been counted.
- 3) The last frame will probably have less than 10 ballot papers.

Counting Team

- Ensure that the counter's name, booth name, sheet number, shire area and the number
 of candidates to be elected are written on each councillor worksheet and master
 councillor worksheet.
- 2) List the candidates' names in ballot paper draw order.
- 3) Using the ruler, count across the number of marks for each candidate. Each number on a ballot paper is a mark; each mark is a vote and is of equal value so count each mark as one vote to that candidate.
- 4) Counter enters the votes on a Form LG 39A Councillor Worksheet and excel spreadsheet (if applicable), adjacent to each candidate's name in the correct column





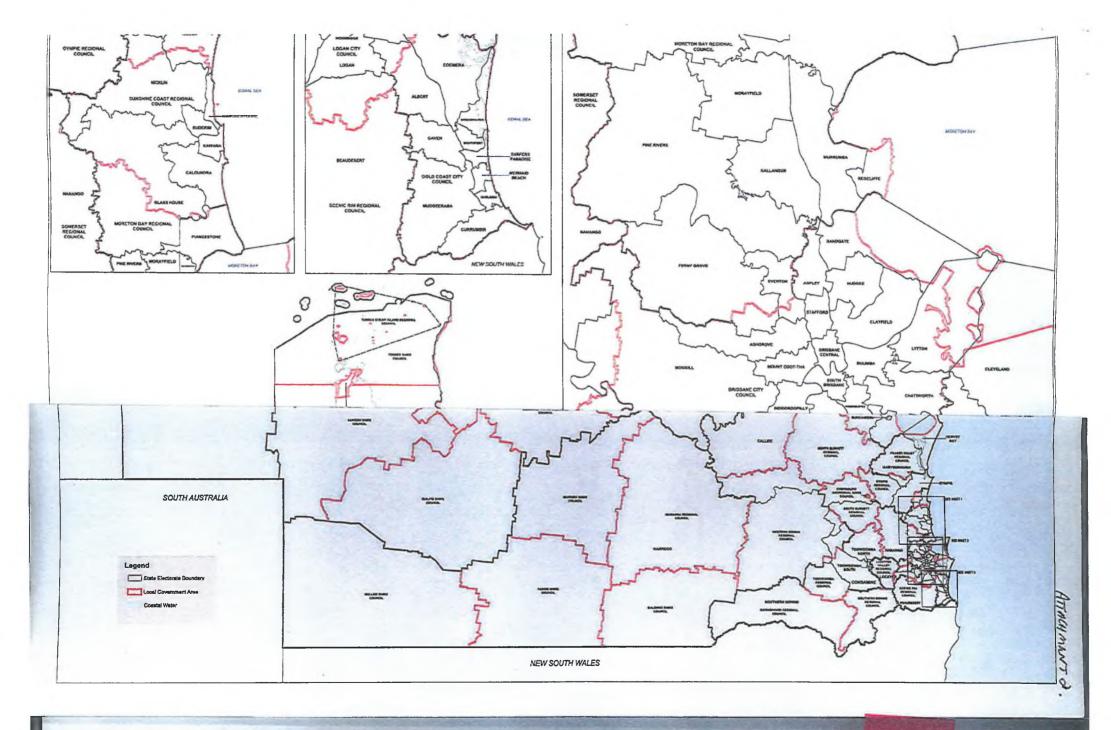
- 6) Total votes for the count must equal the number of candidates to be elected multiplied the number of ballot papers on the frame.
- 7) After each count is complete (10 ballot papers) attach a yellow post-it note to the top ballot paper showing the sheet number and count number.
- 8) Move onto the next frame and repeat the procedure.
- 9) If applicable, at the end of the 10th count of 10. The data entry operator will call the tot across for the counter to record on the Form LG 39A Councillor Worksheet and L 39B Master Councillor Worksheet.
- 10) Continue the counting process until all formal votes are counted and recorded.



OPV Count Summary

Sorting Team

- 1) Unfold the ballot papers.
- 2) Sort ballot papers into formal 1st preference order or each candidate and informal.
- 3) Record any scrutineer objections on the back of the ballot paper with the decision (formal or informal). Set aside for Returning Officer verification.
- 4) Set the informal ballot papers aside to be verified and counted later by the Presiding Officer.
- 5) Count the 1st preference bundles for each candidate and informal.
- 6) Record the number of votes for each candidate and informal in your return.





Electoral Commission Queensland

AAA

Home :- 2016 Local Government Elections > 2016 Aurukun Shire Council Mayoral / Councillor Election

Notice of Election	Saturday 6 February 2010
Close of Roll	5:00 PM Friday 12 February 2010
Close of Nominations	12 noon Tuesday 16 February 2016
Ballot Draw	10:00 AM Wednesday 17 February 2016
Pre-Poll Voting - Declaration (Postal) Applications	Starts: Saturday 6 February 2016 Ends: 7:00 PM Wednesday 16 March 2016
Pre-Poll Voting - Declaration (Postal) Voting	6:00 PM Saturday 19 March 2016
Pre-Poll Voting - Electoral Visitor Applications	Starts: Saturday 6 February 2016 Ends: 7:00 PM Wednesday 16 March 2016
Pre-Poll Voting - Electoral Visitor Voting	Starts: Thursday 18 February 2016 Ends: 6:00 PM Saturday 19 March 2016
	2016
Pre-Poll Voting - In Person	Starts: 9:00 AM Monday 7 March
	2016 Ends: 6:00 PM Friday 18 March 2016
-	So the first to be
Pre-Poll Voting - Declared Institution	Starts: 9:00 AM Tuesday 8 March 2016
	Ends: 6:00 PM Saturday 19 March 2016
Cut-Off for Lodgement of How-to-Vote Cards to be distributed on Polling Day	5:00 PM Friday 11 March 2016
Polling Day	8:00 AM - 7:00 PM Saturday 19 March 2016
Cut-Off for Return of Postal Ballot Papers	6:00 PM Tuesday 29 March 2016

©2010 Electoral Commission Queensland Last Updated: Saturday 19 March 2016 6:12-54 PM. ELECTORAL EVENT PLANNING
A Strategic Approach

Electoral Commission Queensland

Author | Anna Jones
October 2015
Version Final 1.0



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Introduction

Following the 2015 State Government Election, ECQ made the decision to embark on a project to develop and introduce a strategic approach to election planning. This project is being undertaken in conjunction with the planning for the 2016 Local Government Electoral Event so that the approach can be assessed for its value and effectiveness whilst being applied to a significant event.

Purpose

This document's main purpose is to communicate the Strategic Event Planning Model (The Model).

It is provided so that parties can reach consensus on the model in order that everyone involved will accept and subscribe to the fundamental principles of the model. These principles form the platform upon which the model is built and are outlined further in the document.

Intended Audience

The intended audience ('the parties') of this document is the members of the ECQ Event Planning Board (The Board), in particular the Assistant Electoral Commissioner and the ECQ Directors.

Document Scope

The document is intended to:

- Provide an overview of the strategic approach to event planning that has been adopted in preparation for the 2016 Local Government Election (LG16);
- Provide the opportunity to review the strategy being implemented with a view to endorsing it as the
 appropriate approach. This review is timely given ECQ is currently half way through the planning
 calendar; and
- Prompt the Board to reconfirm its commitment to the strategic planning process and endorse
 the remaining activities leading into the execution of LG16.

Background

ECQ is fortunate to operate with a small team of experienced people who collectively have a detailed understanding of the electoral process, combined with an enthusiasm to deliver. Despite this, there has traditionally been a lack of a consistent and strategic approach to event management which has not only created the potential to expose ECQ to risk but has also limited the Commission's ability to realise efficiencies and capitalise on continuous improvement opportunities.

The model is intended to provide ECQ with a formalised, strategic approach to event planning and has been designed to deliver efficiencies and reduce the risks associated with running an electoral event.

Justification

The introduction of a strategic event planning model is justified by the need for ECQ to be able to:

Confidently answer the question "What do we do?" This approach will assist in determining an up
to date, concise and consistent description of the Electoral Commission's role and responsibilities so
that it can clearly be communicated to people newly employed at ECQ, stakeholders and the general
public.

- Identify & manage risks and challenges before they become issues. This will ensure that ECQ is able to deliver outcomes efficiently and effectively while operating in compliance with prescribed legislative.
- Implement repeatable processes in order to enhance planning and budgeting capability and to ensure consistency of service.
- Operate transparently and adhere to the principles of good governance.
- Acknowledge effort and significant contributions of its staff. The model will provide visibility of activity that has not previously been available to the Commission.
- Support Succession Planning. ECQ relies heavily on the significant experience held by a number of long serving employees. While this has its advantages, it also presents a level of risk should a key team member(s) leave ECQ. A strategic approach will enable the capture of knowledge and sharing of expertise, thus protect ECQ and grow capability.

Ownership of the Strategic Model

The Event Planning Board, comprising the ECQ Executive Team, has ownership for the Strategic Event Planning Model. The Board is responsible for ensuring that the model is maintained and adhered to during event planning. It will also be the role of the Board to initiate the launch of the strategic planning process at the official commencement of planning for a particular event. At the time of writing the Board is supported by a dedicated Program Manager. In the future a decision will need to be made as to whether this is a dedicated role or whether responsibility for supporting the process is incorporated into another role.

Supporting Principles

The Strategic Event Planning Model is underpinned by the following principles:

- The model delivers a formalised and consistent approach to event planning;
- The model facilitates a synergistic approach to the delivery of an event by ensuring that contributions from all parts of the Commission are aligned.
- Increased visibility will deliver efficiency gains and will facilitate proactive risk identification and mitigation.
- Documented and measurable processes provide a platform upon which learning and development can be achieved.
- The model provides a platform upon which broader strategy can be built.

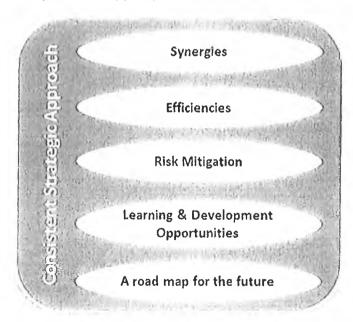


Diagram 1 | Supporting Principles

An Overview

The exercise aims to document an accurate account of the core functions undertaken by ECQ and to provide a framework within which divisions may best cooperate in order to ensure the effective and efficient delivery of an event.

Fundamentally, the model seeks to ensure that ECQ is equipped with the appropriate experience, expertise and resources to continually adapt to the cyclical nature electoral events.

The model incorporates two fundamental areas. The first is an activity matrix which conveys the role of the Commission (ie: our core business – "what we do"); and the other is the project management framework incorporating the tools and standardised templates. Importantly the model is supported by the broader ECQ strategic operational plan ("how we do it"). The elements are displayed in Diagram 2.

ECQ EVENT PLANNING MODEL

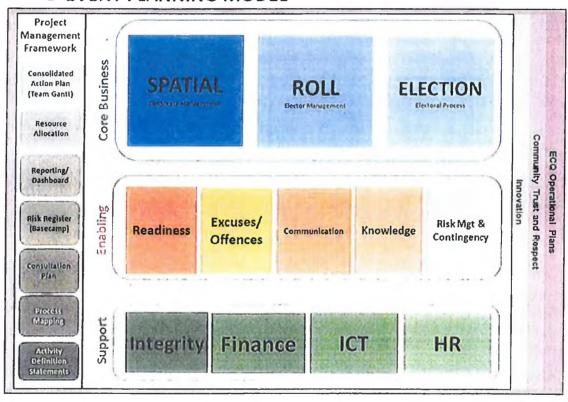


Diagram 2 | Overview of the Strategic Event Planning Model

Functional Matrix

The functional matrix is designed to capture the key activities or projects that go into delivering an event and to running ECQ's business. Each activity identified is critical not only to successfully execute an event, but also to discharge legislative obligations. Functions are presented in four categories:

- Core Business The activities undertaken in the delivery of ECQ's primary function Spatial, Roll and Elections:
- Enabling The activities that must take place during the event planning period in preparation for delivering the core business activities;
- · Integrity; and

• Support - The activities required to support the execution of an event.

By design the matrix is not aligned with the organisational structure as in the majority of cases the successful delivery of activity/project outcomes are reliant on the input and cooperation of multiple divisions or functional groups. (Refer to Diagram 3 and Appendix 1 | Activity Matrix).

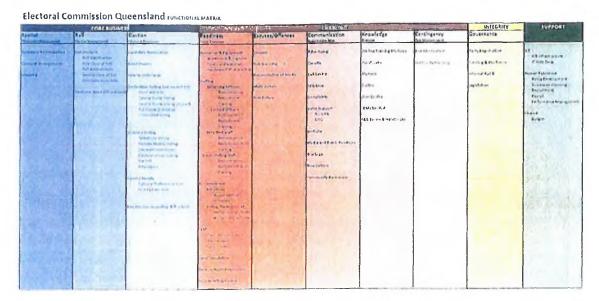


Diagram 3 | ECQ Functional Matrix (Refer to Appendix 1)

Project Management Framework

The project management framework consists of a number of tools and standardised templates. These include:

- Consolidated Action Plan
- Risk Register
- Reporting / Dashboard
- Process Mapping
- · Project Definition Statements

The Program and Delivery Manager is responsible for initiating the use of and supporting the ongoing adherence to the Project Management Frame work.

Consolidated Action Plan

The subscription to an online project management tool is a fundamental part of the Strategic Event Planning Model. LG16 is being planned in Team Gantt. The tool facilitates the creation of a consolidated action plan accessible to all ECQ staff members. The plan is easily updated to allocate resources and to record actions and progress. Data extracted from Team Gantt is used to update the project scorecard.

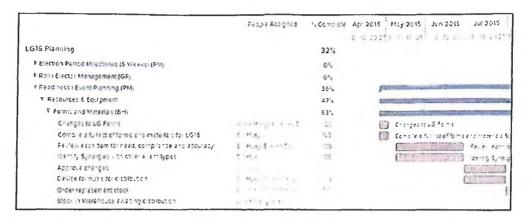


Diagram 4 | A snapshot from the preferred Project Management Tool (Team Gan

Risk Management



A risk register is created in Base Camp in order to record and manage any risks identified in relation to event creation. The centralised register is created and maintained in Base Camp so that is accessible and able to be updated by the Executive Team and activity leaders.

Diagram 5 | A snapshot from the preferred Risk Management Tool (Basecamp)

Reporting / Dashboard

A scorecard / dashboard will be prepared periodically on an agreed basis so that progress can be monitored. Increased visibility will result in an increased sense of accountability. It is expected that the Directors and the Executive will regularly monitor the results and follow up to ensure that leaders are driving results. An examp of the scorecard is displayed in Diagram 5 and Appendix 2.

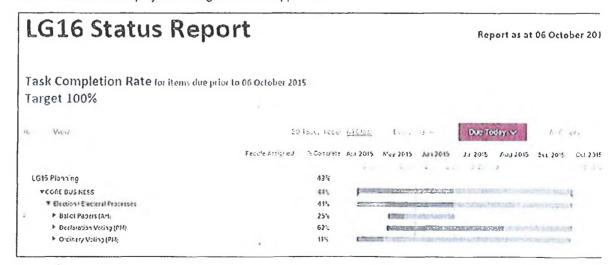


Diagram 6 | A snapshot from the Weekly Status Report (Refer to Appendix 2

Process Mapping

The electoral process will be visually mapped to communicate a high level summary of timeframes and dependencies. This will be used as an educational tool for those new to ECQ, key stakeholders and the general public.

Project Definition Statements



Project Definition Statements are prepared to provide a concise description of each activity/project identified in the activity matrix and process map. These documents are prepared using a standard visual template so that they are easily understood regardless of a person's understanding of the electoral process. In particular they will also be used as an educational tool.

Diagram 7 | Project/Activity Statement Template (Refer to Appendix 3)

Responsibility and Accountability

Responsibility Matrix

The following RACI matrix provides a high level 'snapshot' of how event planning responsibilities are distributed between the departments.

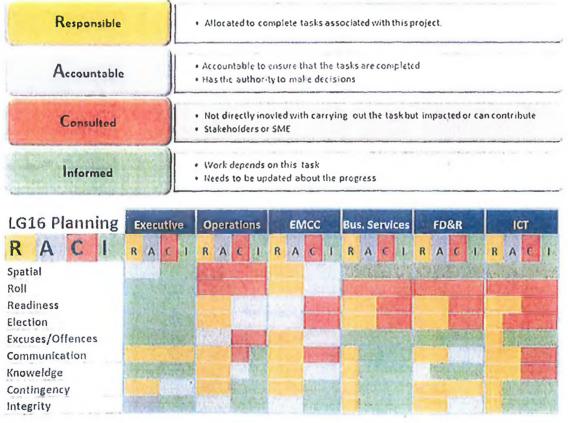


Diagram 8 | LG16 RACI Model

Election Planning Governance | Project Roles

Everyone at ECQ has a role to play and all should be empowered to make decisions. At the same time, it is important to ensure that decisions being made not only discharge ECQ's obligations but mitigate any risks and deliver the requirements of the stakeholders.

The identification of, and appointment to, project based positions will assist in providing a framework in which good governance can be achieved.

The following roles have been identified within the Strategic Event Planning Model.

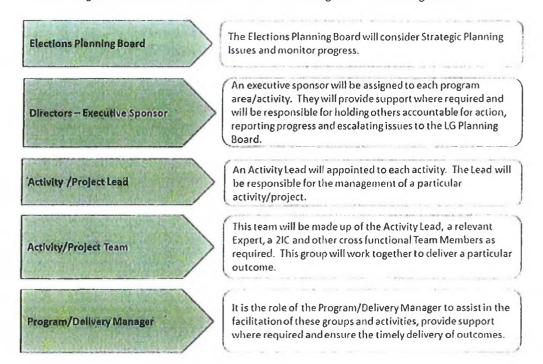


Diagram 9 | Strategic Event Planning Roles

Resource Plan

At the commencement of each event planning cycle the existing resource plan will be reviewed and a project/activity leader and second in charge (2IC) will be appointed. ECQ's succession plan will be consulted when making these appointments. The final submission will be reviewed and approved by the Event Planning Board.

Consultation Plan

The Event Planning Model is created in order to facilitate consultation throughout the planning process. Regular cross functional communication and consultation will be instrumental in adhering to the principles of the model (as outlined in Diagram 1).

Diagram 7 outlines an example of the available internal event planning forums and the proposed timing for communication.

12 Month Consultation Plan

Weekout from Event 52 51 52 45 45 47 44 47 42 41 42 41 42 11 22 41 42 11 22 41 42 11 22 41 42 11 22 41 42 11 22 41 42 11 22 41 42 11 22 41 42 11 22 41 42 11 22 41 42 11 22 41 42 11 22 41 42 11 22 41 42 11 22 41 42 11 22 41 42 11 22 41 42 11 22 41 42 11 22 41 42 41

Event Planning Board Meeting Executive Sponsor/Director's Meeting Leaders Meetings Cross Functional Team Meetings One on One Leader Meetings Town Hall Presentation



Diagram 10 | Draft Consultation Plan

Taking Action



Communication is key to the success of the model. A simplistic cyclical model promoting consultation, action and reporting is recommended. It is expected that project leaders will initiate communication across relevant cross functional groups, action plans will be developed and progress will be reported on a regular basis.

Diagram 11 | Activity Cycle

ECQ Strategy

Operational Plan

ECQ adheres to an approved annual operational plan developed through the consolidation of each of the executive plans (Operations, EMCC, FD&R, Business Services and ICT). These plans outline the strategies and actions committed to by each department in order to deliver their functional requirements (including those identified in the Event Management Plan).

Budget

An event specific budget is included in ECQ's annual budget. Cost centres are allocated to each activity/project. These budgets are developed in conjunction with Directors and project leaders and these parties are responsible for managing their projects within the allocated budget.

Conclusion & Next Steps

The Event Planning Model is intended to provide ECQ with a formalised, strategic approach to event planning and has been designed to deliver efficiencies and reduce the risks associated with running an electoral event

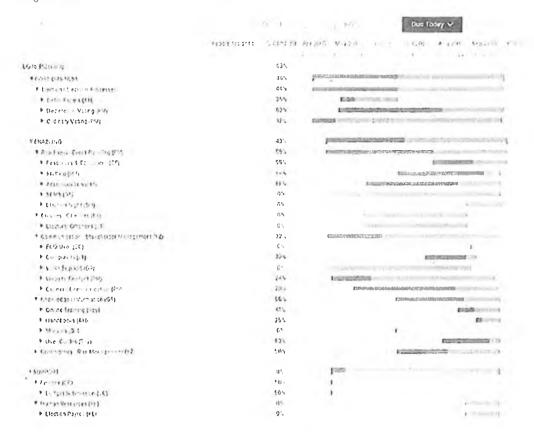
In order for the model to achieve its objective it is imperative that the parties all accept and subscribe to the fundamental principles of the support model and commit to adhering to supporting the use of the tools put in place. Following the review of this document endorsement of the model by the Event Planning Board will be sought.

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LG16 Status Report

Report as at 06 October 2015

Task Completion Rate for items due prior to 06 October 2015 Target 100%



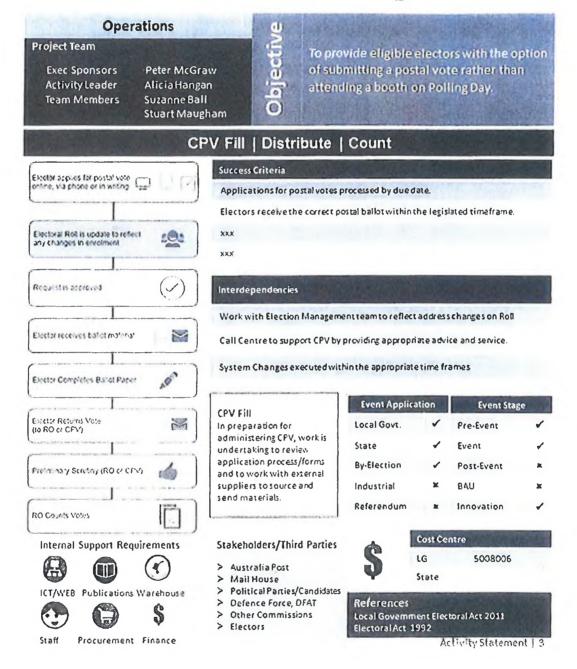
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22/09/2015	RAGI	Adam Wilson	
22/09/2015	Business Services	Michael Whatmore	
23/09/2015	DACC	Judish Mannien	
24/09/2015	El·ICC	Judith Atannian	
25/09/2015	Operations	Bin Huey	
25/09/2015	Business Services	Vaye Evans	
28/09/2015	Business Services	Carla Ciotti	
30/09/2015	Business Services	Paye Evans	
1/10/2015	Business Services	Carla Ciotti	
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2/10/2015	Business Services	Carla Cionti	
6/10/2015	Executive	Anra Jones	

total Government Elections 2016

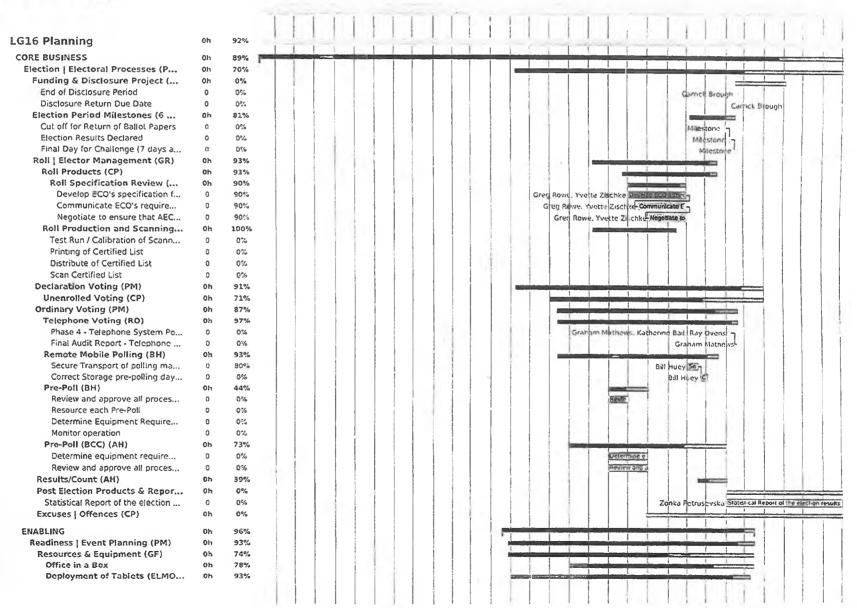
24 weeks to go

Central Postal Voting

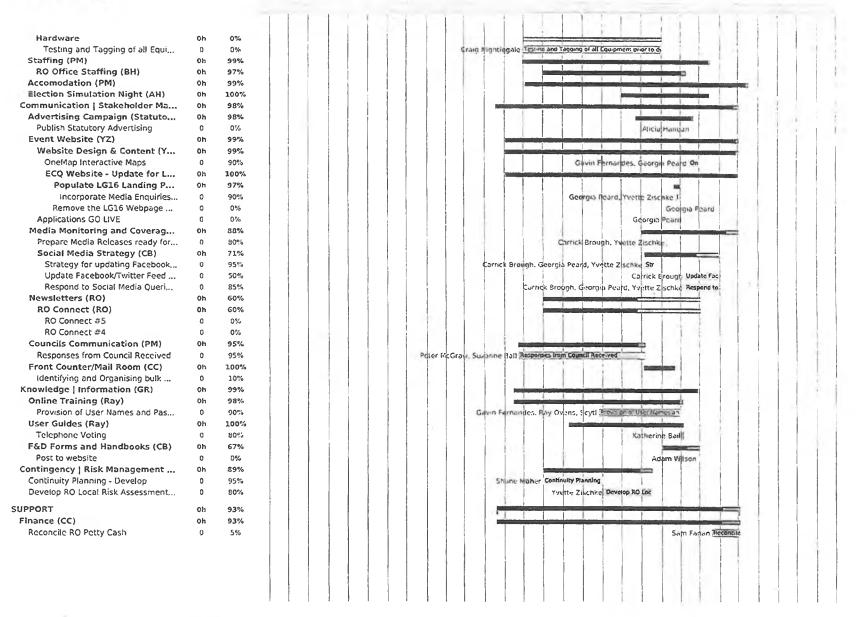












Property occupations

Form 6



Appointment and reappointment of a property agent, resident letting agent or property auctioneer Property Occupations Act 2014 This form is effective from 1 October 2015

ABN: 13 846 673 994

Part 1—Client details	
Client 1 Note: The client is the person or entity appointing the agent to provide the services.	Client name ABN ACN
This may be the owner (or authorised representative of the owner) of the land, property or business that is to be sold or may be a prospective buyer seeking to purchase land or a property.	Are you registered for GST? Yes No Address
	Suburb
	Email address.
Client 2 Note: Annexures detailing additional clients may be	Client name
attached if required.	ABN
	Are you registered for GST? Yes No
	Address
	Suburb
	Phone
	Email address
Part 2—Licensee details	
Licensee type	Real estate agent Resident letting agent Property auctioneer
More than one box may be ticked if appropriate.	Agency name (if applicable)
Note: Annexures detailing conjuncting agents may be	Licensee name
attached if required.	ABN
	Licence number Expiry / / DD MM YYYY
	Address
	Suburb
	Phone
	Email address.

Part 3—Details of prope	erty or business that is to be sold, let, purchased, or managed	
Please provide details of the property, land, or business as appropriate.	Description Address	
Note: Annexures detailing multiple properties may be attached if required.	Suburb	Postcode
	Lot	
Part 4—Appointment of	property agent	
Section 1 Performance of service Annexures detailing the performance of service may be attached if required.	The client appoints the agent to perform the following service/s: Sale Purchase Letting / collection of rent / mana Leasing (Commercial agents) Auction Auction date / / (must be completed) DD MM YYYY Other (please specify)	
Section 2 Term of appointment Sole and exclusive appointments: for sales of one or two residential properties, the term is negotiable and agent can be appointed or reappointed up to a maximum of 90 days per term. There are no limitations on the length of an appointment for anything other than a residential property sale.	Single appointment for a particular service or services Start / / DD MM YYYY Continuing appointment for a service or a number of services over a period Start / / DD MM YYYY	
Section 3 Price State the price for which the property, land or business is to be sold or let. Note: Bait advertising is an offence under the Australian Consumer Law.	Reserve List For auctions: If a reserve price is unknown at the time of appointment, it can writing at a later date. For residential property auctions and residential properties to be marketed wi the client agrees to marketing via an electronic listing provider, the client agricultuse to the electronic listing provider a price or price range of to esta	ithout a price: If rees for the agent to
Section 4 Instructions/conditions The client may list any condition, limitation or restriction on the performance of the service. Note: Annexures detailing instructions/conditions may be attached if required.		

	One Hatter Very restauring to the City of				
Residential sales of 1 or 2	Open listing: You may terminate in writing at any time.				
properties only	Sole or exclusive: The client and agent can agree in writing to end the appointment early. For appointments of 60 days or more, either party can end the appointment by giving 30 days written notice,				
	but the appointment must run for at least 60 days unless both parties agree to an earlier end date.				
pen listing	You may terminate an open listing for either commercial or residential property sales at any time.				
ther fixed term	The parties may agree to a fixed term appointment of their choice. This term may be ended earlier				
pointments by mutual agreement.					
excluding residential coperty sales)					
ontinuing appointments	You may terminate in writing with 30 days notice, or less if both parties agree.				
(for example: letting, collection of rents etc)					
art 6—PROPERTY SA	LES: open listing, sole agency or exclusive agency				
o the client					
	l a property or land on the basis of an open listing, or a sole agency, or exclusive agency.				
	ins the circumstances under which you will, and won't, have to pay a commission to the agent if the				
roperty is sold during their tern					
OPEN LISTING					
	the property but you retain a right to appoint other agents on similar terms, without penalty or extra				
commission.	the property but you retain a right to appoint other agents on similar terms, without penatty or extra				
No end date required.					
Appointment can be ended by	by either you or the agent at any time by giving written notice.				
When you must pay the agent					
The agent is entitled to the a	agreed commission if the agent is the effective cause of sale.				
When you don't have to pay the	e agent				
If the client sells the propert	ry privately and the agent is not the effective cause of sale i.e.: purchaser did not contact the agent, di				
not attend open house inspe	ctions etc.				
SOLE AGENCY					
When you must pay the agent					
If you appoint a new agent de	uring an existing agent's sole agreement term and the property is sold during that term, you may have				
to pay:					
A commission to each age					
A commission to each ageDamages for breach of co	ontract arising under the existing agent's appointment				
A commission to each age Damages for breach of co When you don't have to pay the	e agent				
 A commission to each age Damages for breach of co Vhen you don't have to pay the	entract arising under the existing agent's appointment e agent y privately and the agent is not the effective cause of sale i.e.: purchaser did not contact the agent, did				
 A commission to each age Damages for breach of co Vhen you don't have to pay the If the client sells the property	entract arising under the existing agent's appointment e agent y privately and the agent is not the effective cause of sale i.e.: purchaser did not contact the agent, die				
A commission to each age Damages for breach of co When you don't have to pay the If the client sells the property not attend open house inspect EXCLUSIVE AGENCY	entract arising under the existing agent's appointment e agent y privately and the agent is not the effective cause of sale i.e.: purchaser did not contact the agent, die				
A commission to each age Damages for breach of co When you don't have to pay the If the client sells the property not attend open house inspect EXCLUSIVE AGENCY When you must pay the agent The client will pay the apport	e agent y privately and the agent is not the effective cause of sale i.e.: purchaser did not contact the agent, did ctions etc.				
A commission to each age Damages for breach of co When you don't have to pay the If the client sells the property not attend open house inspect EXCLUSIVE AGENCY When you must pay the agent The client will pay the apporproperty during the term of	e agent y privately and the agent is not the effective cause of sale i.e.: purchaser did not contact the agent, did ctions etc. inted agent whether this agent, any other agent, or person (including the client themselves) sells the				
A commission to each age Damages for breach of co When you don't have to pay the If the client sells the property not attend open house inspect EXCLUSIVE AGENCY When you must pay the agent The client will pay the apporproperty during the term of If the client sells the property	e agent y privately and the agent is not the effective cause of sale i.e.: purchaser did not contact the agent, did ctions etc.				
A commission to each age Damages for breach of co When you don't have to pay the If the client sells the propert not attend open house inspect EXCLUSIVE AGENCY When you must pay the agent The client will pay the appor property during the term of If the client sells the propert buyer to the property) the a	e agent y privately and the agent is not the effective cause of sale i.e.: purchaser did not contact the agent, did ctions etc. inted agent whether this agent, any other agent, or person (including the client themselves) sells the the appointment. ty, the exclusive appointment expires and if the agent was the effective cause of sale (introduced the gent may be entitled to commission.				
A commission to each age Damages for breach of co When you don't have to pay the If the client sells the property not attend open house inspect EXCLUSIVE AGENCY When you must pay the agent The client will pay the apporproperty during the term of If the client sells the property buyer to the property) the activity the end of the sole or exclusive.	e agent y privately and the agent is not the effective cause of sale i.e.: purchaser did not contact the agent, did ctions etc. inted agent whether this agent, any other agent, or person (including the client themselves) sells the the appointment. ty, the exclusive appointment expires and if the agent was the effective cause of sale (introduced th gent may be entitled to commission.				

Part 6-PROPERTY SAL	ES: open listing, sole agency or exclusive agency continued
Acknowledgement for sole and exclusive agency	I/we acknowledge the appointed agent has provided me/us with information about sole and exclusive agency appointments.
	Vendor/s
	Date / / DD MM YYYY
	Vendor/s
	Date / / DD MM YYYY
	Agent
	Date / / DD MM YYYY
Part 7—Commission	
To the client The commission is negotiable. It must be written as a percentage or dollar amount.	The client and the agent agree that the commission including GST payable for the service to be performed by the agent is:
Make sure you understand when commission is payable. If you choose 'Other' and the contract does not settle, the agent may still seek commission. To the agent You should ensure that commission is clearly expressed and the client fully understands the likely amount and when it is payable. Refer to section 104 and 105 of the Property Occupations Act 2014.	When commission is payable For sales, including auctions, commission is payable if a contract is entered into and settlement of the contract occurs. Other (for specific other circumstances in which commission is payable see annexure). For all other types of appointments:

Part 8-Authorisation to	incur fees, charges and ex	xpenses	
The client authorises the agent attached if required.	to incur the following expenses in	relation to the performance of t	he service/s. Annexures may be
Section 1 Advertising/marketing To the client Your agent may either complete this section or attach annexures of marketing/ advertising activities. In either case, the authorised amount must be written here.			
	Authorised amount \$	Y	
Section 2 Repairs and maintenance (if applicable) Property management	The maximum value of repairs and the client is \$		
Section 3 Other Description of fees and charges.	Description	Amount	When payable
The agent may either complete this section or attach annexures.			
Section 4 Agent's rebate, discount, commission or benefit incurred in the provision of or performance of the	Service	Source	Estimated amount
service			

Part 9-Signatures

WARNING: THE CLIENT IS ADVISED TO SEEK INDEPENDENT LEGAL ADVICE BEFORE SIGNING THIS FORM.

This form enables the client to appoint, or reappoint, a property agent, resident letting agent or property auctioneer (the 'agent') for the sale, letting/management, collection of rent, auction or purchase of real property, land or businesses. This form must be completed and given to the client before the agent performs any service for the client. Failure to do so may result in a penalty and loss of commission for the agent. If you are unclear about any aspect of this form, or the fees you will be charged, do not sign it. Seek legal advice. If you need more information about this form including what an agent needs to disclose, you can visit the Office of Fair Trading website at www.qld.gov.au/fairtrading or phone on 13 QGOV (13 74 68).

Client 1	Full name
	Signature / / D D M M Y Y Y Y
Client 2	Full name
	Signature / / D D M M Y Y Y Y
Agent A registered real estate salesperson working for an	Full name
agency can sign this form on behalf of the licensed agent.	Signature / / D D M M Y Y Y Y
Schedules and attachments List any attachments.	
Part 10—Reappointment	
Use this section to reappoint your agent. A new appointment form is required if any of the terms or conditions are to change. Your agent can only be reappointed within 14 days before the contract ends - not before. Limitations apply on reappointments for sole or exclusive agency appointments for residential property sales.	I/we (the client) reappoint
	Signature
	Signature / / D D M M Y Y Y Y

This is the end of the approved form. Please note, any annexures/schedules form part of the appointment contract.

Property occupations

Form 6



Appointment and reappointment of a property agent, resident letting agent or property auctioneer Property Occupations Act 2014

This form is effective from 1 December 2014

ABN: 13 846 673 994

Part 1—Client details	
Client 1 Note: The client is the registered owner of the property, land, or owner of the business. It can be either a company or individual.	Client name
	Address
a company or manifestati	Suburb State Postcode
	Phone Fax Mobile Email address
Client 2 Note: Annexures detailing	Client name
additional clients may be attached if required.	Address
	Suburb State Postcode
	Phone
D 12 1	
Part 2—Licensee details	
Licensee type More than one box may be	Real estate agent Resident letting agent Property auctioneer
ticked if appropriate.	Agency name (if applicable)
Note: Annexures detailing conjuncting agents may be attached if required.	Licensee name Licence number Expiry / / DD MM YYYY
	Address
	Suburb State Postcode
	Phone Fax Mobile
	Email address
Part 3—Details of prope	rty or business that is to be sold, let, purchased, or managed
Please provide details of the property, land, or business as appropriate.	Description
Note: Annexures detailing multiple properties may be	Address
attached if required.	Suburb State Postcode
	Lot Plan
	Title reference Parish/County

Part 4—Appointment of	property agent
Section 1 Performance of service Annexures detailing the performance of service may be attached if required.	The client appoints the agent to perform the following service/s: Sale Purchase Letting / collection of rent / management Auction Auction date / / DD MM YYYY Other (please specify)
Section 2 Term of appointment Sole and exclusive appointments: for sales of one or two residential properties, the term is negotiable and agent can be appointed or reappointed up to a maximum of 90 days per term.	Single appointment for a particular service or services Start / / End / / DD MM YYYY Continuing appointment for a service or a number of services over a period Start DD MM YYYY
Section 3 Price State the price for which the property, land or business is to be sold or let. Note: Bait advertising is an offence under the Australian Consumer Law.	\$ • For auctions: If a reserve price is unknown at the time of appointment, it can be advised in writing at a later date. For residential property auctions and residential properties to be marketed without a price: • If the client agrees to marketing via an electronic listing provider, the client agrees for the agent to disclose to the electronic listing provider a price or price range of \$ to establish a search criteria.
Section 4 Instructions/conditions The client may list any condition, limitation or restriction on the performance of the service. Note: Annexures detailing instructions/conditions may be attached if required.	
Part 5—Termination of a	ppointment
Residential sales of 1 or 2 properties only Non-sales (for example: letting, collection of rents etc)	Open listing: You may terminate in writing with 30 days notice or less if both parties agree. Sole or exclusive: You may terminate in writing with 30 days notice, but the appointment will not be terminated until it has been in effect for at least 60 days. You may terminate in writing with 30 days notice or less if both parties agree.
Part 6—SALES: Open list	ting, sole agency or exclusive agency
A client may appoint an agent to s	ell a property, land or business on the basis of an open listing, or a sole agency, or an exclusive agency.
When you must pay the agent To the client This information shows when you will have to pay the agent if the property is sold during the term of the agent's appointment.	 Open listing You appoint the agent to sell the property, but you retain a right to appoint other agents on similar terms, without penalty or extra commission. No end date required. Appointment can be ended by either you or the agent at any time by giving written notice. The agent is entitled to the agreed commission if he or she is the <i>effective cause of sale</i>.

Part 6-SALES: Open lis	ting, sole agency or exclusive agency continued
Note: If you sell your property after this appointment expires and the agent introduced the buyer to your property, the agent may be entitled to commission.	Sole Exclusive Sole and exclusive appointments If you appoint a new agent during an existing agent's sole or exclusive term and the property is sold during that term, you may have to pay: A commission to each agent (two commissions) Damages for breach of contract arising under the existing agent's appointment. Exclusive appointments The client will pay this agent whether this agent, any other agent, or person (including the client themselves), sells the property during the term of the appointment.
Part 7—Commission	
To the client The commission is negotiable. Make sure you understand when commission is payable. If you choose 'Other' and the contract does not settle, the agent may still seek commission. To the agent You should ensure that commission is clearly expressed and the client fully understands the likely amount and when it is payable. Refer to section 104 and 105 of the Property Occupations Act 2014. Part 8—Authorisation to	The client and the agent agree that the commission including GST payable for the service to be performed by the agent is: When commission is payable For sales, including auctions, commission is payable if a contract is entered into and settlement of the contract occurs. Other (for specific other circumstances in which commission is payable see annexure). For all other types of appointments:
The client authorises the agent attached if required.	to incur the following expenses in relation to the performance of the service/s. Annexures may be
Section 1 Advertising/marketing To the client Your agent may either complete this section or attach annexures of marketing/ advertising activities.	Authorised amount \$
Section 2 Repairs and maintenance (if applicable)	The maximum value of repairs and maintenance to be paid by the agent without prior approval by the client is \$

Part 8—Authorisation to	incur fees, charges and ex	kpenses continued			
Section 3	Description	Dollar amount	When payable		
Other					
Description of fees and charges.					
The agent may either complete this section or					
attach annexures.			F-1'		
ection 4	Service	Source	Estimated amount		
Agent's rebate, discount, commission or benefit incurred in the provision of or performance of the service					
Part 9—Signatures					
VARNING: THE CLIENT I	S ADVISED TO SEEK INDEPEN	IDENT LEGAL ADVICE BEF	ORE SIGNING THIS FORM.		
of commission for the agent. If y advice. If you need more inform	nt before the agent performs any serv you are unclear about any aspect of the ation about this form including what a .gov.au or phone on 13 QGOV (13 74	nis form, or the fees you will be ch an agent needs to disclose, you can	arged, do not sign it. Seek legal		
Client 1	Full name				
	Signature	[D D M M Y Y Y Y		
lient 2	Full name				
	Signature				
agent	Full name				
registered real estate alesperson working for an Igency can sign this form on Igehalf of the licensed agent.	Signature DDMMYYYY				
schedules and attachments ist any attachments.					
Part 10—Reappointmen	t				
Jse this section to eappoint your agent. A	I/we (the client) reappoint	r			
ew appointment form is equired if any of the terms		(the agent) to	D D M M Y Y Y Y		
	Clients name				
_					
or conditions are to change. Your agent can only be reappointed within 14 days before the contract ends - not	Signature	[D D M M Y Y Y Y		
our agent can only be eappointed within 14 days	Signature				

This is the end of the approved form. Please note, any annexures/schedules form part of the appointment contract.



Cairns District Court Judge Brian Harrison. PICTURE: MARSHALL SARAH Crime and Justice

Cairns judge raises concerns over case backlog

Grace Mason, The Cairns Post July 19, 2016 5:00am

A SENIOR judge has called Cairns' legal fraternity into an urgent meeting and said he was "on the verge of giving up" over a huge case backlog building in the city.

Speaking in the Cairns District Court yesterday, Judge Brian Harrison said more hearings had fallen overdue to legal delays this year than had actually gone ahead.

He asked Cairns' Department of Public Prosecutions boss Nigel Rees to attend the Thursday meeting and said there were "a lot of problems at your end" along with other sections of the legal profession.

"I want to have a meeting with the profession ... about the way things are not happening around here," he said.

"(I think we need to) all get in a room and thrash it out.

Tabbelly rewalks MP Sterraine 2 guly 2016

"We've got to do something about it, we can't just keep stumbling along like this."

Judge Harrison, who was first appointed to the District Court more than six years ago, said he had just returned from leave and had hoped things would have improved in his absence but it was now "in a bigger mess than when I left".

He described the calendar of his fellow District Court judge Dean Morzone as "a shambles" and said things were not progressing through fast enough after being handed up from the Magistrates Court.

"Thinking ahead doesn't seem to be part of the description," he said.

"I intend to invite both registrars and as many from the profession as I can get here."

A spokesman from the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions said they would not comment on the matter, while a spokesman from the Office of the Chief Judge said he was unavailable for comment.

The meeting is scheduled for 2pm on Thursday.

	Parent (Successful) Club	Related Entity (Struggling) Club	Type of Arrangement	Electorate
1	Aspley Leagues Club	Bunya Sports	Management Agreement	Aspley
		Zillmere Sports		
2	Brible Island RSL Club	Bribie Island Sports Club	Management Agreement	Pumicestone
3	Brothers Leagues Club Cairns	Fuller Sports Club	Amalgamation	Cairns
-		Toogood Sports Club		
4	Brothers Leagues Club Townsville	Kirwan Sports Club	Management Agreement	Thuringowa
		Thuringowa Sports Club	Management Agreement	
5	Caboolture RSL Club	Centenary Lakes Sports	Management Agreement	Morayfield
6	Souths Mackay Leagues Club	Suburban Bowls Club	Management Agreement	Mackay
7	Southside Sports and Community Club	Southern Cross Sports Club	Amalgamation	Mansfield
,	Southside Sports and Community Club	Mt Gravatt Bowls Club	Amalyamation	
8	Yaralla Sports Club	Gladstone Golf Club	Amalgamation	Gladstone
9	Burleigh Bears Rugby Leagues Club	Burleigh Sports Club	Amalgamation	Burleigh
		Wynnum Workers and Sports Club	Management Agreement	Lytton
10	Wynnum Manly Leagues Club	Wynnum Manly Leagues Bowls Club		
11	Cazaly's Cairns	Trinity Beach Sports Club – Cairns	Management Agreement	Cairns
11	Cazaly 5 Call 115	Holloway Beach Sporting Club	Management Agreement	
12	Easts Leagues Club	Broncos Leagues Club	Management Agreement	South Brisbane
13	Glenden Town Club	Glenden Bottletree Bowls Club	Amalgamation	Mirani
13		Glenden Golf Club	Amalyamation	
14	Condamine Sports Club	Warwick Golf Club	Management Agreement	Southern Downs
15	Nerang RSL Club	Canungra RSL Club	Management Agreement	Gaven
16	Caloundra RSI Club	Caloundra Power Boat Club	Management Agreement	Caloundra
17	Tleri Country Club	Tieri Golf Club	Amalgamtion	Gregory
18	Yeronga Services Club	Tarragindl Bowls Club	Management Agreement	Yeerongpilly
19	Keppel Bay Sailing Club	Yeppoon Bowls Club	Management Agreement	Keppel
				

Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services



Pre-hearing Questions on Notice and Answers



QUESTION:

I refer to page 6 of the QPS SDS in relation to targeting crime spots and ask – how much funding in 2016/17 (including specific initiatives) and across the forward estimates is specifically allocated to addressing the following and how does this compare with the amount spent on each of these areas in 2012/13, 2013/14 and 2014/15:

- a) organised crime;
- b) alcohol fuelled violence; and
- c) the drug ice?

ANSWER:

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to tackling crime in all forms across the state, with \$39.1 million in extra funding committed to help police target serious and organised crime in Queensland over the next four years.

This builds on the additional \$20 million over four years, announced in the 2015-16 Budget, for police to tackle organised crime, alcohol-fuelled violence and the drug, ice. The Queensland Police Service is responsible for the allocation of this additional funding towards operational priorities in these areas.

The Queensland Police Service is the lead agency to respond to organised crime, alcohol fuelled violence and the drug ice with a strategy to stop crime and make Queensland safe.

During the 2015-2016 financial year specific funding was allocated to address these three areas.

The total allocation is estimated at \$9.564M over four years for the State Crime Command.

This includes the Organised Crime Taskforce and the Drug and Serious Crime Group, as well as enhancing capability across the Queensland Police Service for organised crime, alcohol fuelled violence and the drug, ice. The total allocation to the Intelligence, Counter Terrorism and Major Events Command is \$6.44M over four years. This includes funding for intelligence operations across organised crime, alcohol fuelled violence and the drug, ice. The total allocation across the regions is \$4M over four years for alcohol fuelled violence and includes the Queensland Alcohol and Other Drugs Action Plan 2015-17.

Prior to the 2015-2016 financial year, responses to organised crime and the drug ice were funded from the Queensland Police Service's operating budget. Therefore specific financial allocations were not made to each area.

Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services

There was no funding allocated during the 2013/14 or 2014/15 financial years towards the QPS response to alcohol fuelled violence or to meet the Government expectations around providing high visibility policing in key entertainment precincts across Queensland.

For the 2016/17 financial year, \$1M has been allocated to support the policing response to alcohol fuelled violence for distribution equally across the following five QPS regions:

- South East Region
- Southern Region
- Brisbane Region
- Central Region
- Northern Region

Previous funding arrangements to address alcohol fuelled violence fell under the Queensland Government's Drink Safe Precincts (DSP) initiative, aimed at reducing alcohol-related violence in the key entertainment precincts of Surfers Paradise, Townsville and Fortitude Valley.

Under the DSP initiative, \$6.28 million was allocated for police overtime resources during the two year trial period commencing December 2010 to November 2012, with partial allocation within the 2012/13 financial year.

The DSP trial was extended to February 2013, and further extended to 30 September 2013, with no further funding provided to QPS.

QUESTION:

I refer to page 27 of the QPS SDS in relation to fees and charges under the Weapons Act 1990 and ask –

why is there expected to be an increase in user charges relating to higher fees expected to be raised in 2016/17; and

how many Category (H) Handgun licences are there currently, how many of these are new licences, how many are renewals and how does this compare with the licencing for 2012/13, 2013/14 and 2014/15?

ANSWER:

Fees

Fees for Weapons licences and ancillary matters are defined in Schedule 1 of the *Weapons Regulation 1996*. These fees are aligned with the Consumer Price Index and rise, as appropriate, at the commencement of the financial year.

Since the implementation of the Weapons Application Online (WAO) system, there has been an increase in applications for weapons licences and permits to acquire leading to an associated increase in fees raised.

Category H Licences

The table below summarises the number of Category H licences issues as a result of new licence applications and licence renewal applications for the periods specified. The total number of concealable licences issued for each period is provided, as is the total number of concealable licenses on issue as at 30 June for each period.

It should be noted that the systems used to retrieve these statistics do not permit reporting on the different type of genuine reasons relied upon for the Category H licence issued (e.g. sports target shooting or primary production). Some licences may be issued with combined conditions for use.

	New Cat H licences issued	Cat H licence renewals	Total Cat H licences issued during year	Total Licences on issue
2015/16	1556	1724	3280	13725
2014/15	1630	1930	3560	12836
2013/14	1753	1768	3521	11928
2012/13	1113	1621	2734	10832

Note: The data reflected above represents a snapshot in time. Some of the enclosed statistics are likely to vary over time due to licence revocation, suspension or expiration.

QUESTION:

I refer to page 57 of the PSBA SDS in relation to new and replacement vehicles and ask -

- a) how many new and replacement vehicles (reported separately) are budgeted for in 2016/17 and across the forward estimates:
- b) at how many kilometres does a QPS vehicle need to be replaced; and
- c) once the new vehicles are in service, what is the ratio of front line staff per police service vehicle and how does that compare with the ratio each year over the past three financial years?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Police Service (QPS) new and replacement vehicle program for the 2016/17 financial year is as follows:

Budget	Amount	New (and projected new)	Replacement (and forecast replacement)
16/17	\$32M	10	690

I am advised that the allocation for the QPS vehicle program is provided annually. The decision to order a number of vehicles and apportion the QPS vehicle allocation is driven by operational priorities, QPS policies, the level of funding allocated to the QPS and changes in the market, such as material rises in vehicle prices and manufacturers offerings.

I am further advised that QPS vehicles are scheduled to be replaced on the basis of either age or distance travelled. Replacement guidelines for specific vehicles are as follows:

- general duties vehicles at 4 years or 80,000km;
- commercial vehicles at 4 years or 100,000km;
- motorcycles at 4 years or 96,000km; and
- heavy commercial vehicles at 10 years or 500,000km.

Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services

With respect to vehicle allocation, the QPS does not employ an officer/vehicle ratio for this purpose given the widely varying business needs across the State. QPS has established a Fleet Governance Group, chaired by an Assistant Commissioner, which considers the allocation of new vehicles.

Each Assistant Commissioner/Executive Director has a general responsibility to optimise the allocation of fleet vehicles to achieve service priorities and community outcomes within their respective portfolios.

QUESTION:

I refer to page 5 of the QPS SDS in relation to combating terrorism in Queensland and ask

- a) What training and resources have been allocated for upskilling of existing officers;
- b) Will there be more officers provided to undertake counter-terrorism operations;
- c) What is the allocation of funding for 2016/17 dealing with counter-terrorism training and operations;
- d) In relation to (c) above, what is the breakdown of this funding; and
- e) How does compare to the overall amount of counter-terrorism funding in 2013/14, 2014/15 and 2015/16?

ANSWER:

a) What training and resources have been allocated for upskilling of existing officers;

In May 2016, the Queensland Police Service undertook Exercise 'Gorgon' - the largest Counter-Terrorism (CT) Exercise ever conducted by the QPS. Exercise activities focused on testing and validating existing CT procedures, policies and plans in response to rapidly evolving, multiple terrorist threats over a four day period.

The Security Counter Terrorism Group (SCG) Security and Capability Development Unit has five officers dedicated to managing the Queensland Police Service (QPS) participation in the Australia-New Zealand Counter-Terrorism Committee (ANZCTC) exercise management program. In 2015/16, in addition to QPS funding, SCG received \$160 000 to conduct training, workshops, and exercises in the Counter Terrorism environment.

The QPS further participates in the ANZCTC National training and capability programs. In 2016/17 the QPS will host the ANZCTC Senior Investigating Officers training and the Counter Terrorism Investigators Workshop.

In 2015/16 Queensland established the State-wide Security and Counter Terrorism Network (SCTN), which provides for a coordinated and agile approach to security related intelligence, investigations, priority site management, community and industry engagement. The SCTN, unique in the National policing environment, has an appointed coordination team responsible for implementation, maintenance and training of the Network participants in each of the 15 police districts. In 2015/16 and 2016/17, it is estimated that over 1000 employees will participate in counter terrorism awareness and SCTN training.

Additionally the QPS Detective Training Program with the ICMC has commenced development of a nationally accredited counter terrorism training workshop for investigators.

The QPS has developed an on-line training program (IRAD) for front line police to recognise and report early indicators of radicalisation.

(b) Will there be more officers provided to undertake counter-terrorism operations;

Yes.

(c) What is the allocation of funding for 2016/17 dealing with counter-terrorism training and operations;

The QPS will receive more than \$16.2 million over four years to improve and maintain its counter terrorism capability and capacity.

The 2016-17 estimated budget is \$11,638,000.

(d) In relation to (c) above, what is the breakdown of this funding; and

As this is an estimated budget, there is no further break down available.

(e) How does compare to the overall amount of counter-terrorism funding in 2013/14, 2014/15 and 2015/16?

The following is a breakdown of the ICMC actual and estimated actual budgets

2013-14 Actual Budget:	\$ 5,777,656
2014-15 Actual Budget:	\$ 6,741,309
2015-16 Estimated Actual:	\$ 7.653.746

QUESTION:

I refer to page 30 of the QFES SDS in relation to fire and emergency services in relation to auxiliary resources in Queensland and ask –

- a) How many auxiliary stations are located in Queensland (broken down by region), how many were there in 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16, and what is the projected number of stations across the forward estimates; and
- b) Which of the programs listed will address the large number of current vacancies in the auxiliary service and how will the vacancies be filled in 2016/17?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the questions. I am advised by Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) that:

a) There are 152 Auxiliary Fire and Rescue Stations located in regional centres across Queensland. This number has been consistent for the past three financial years. QFES is committed to providing a high level of service in regional communities and has advised that there are no current plans to change auxiliary station numbers in 2016-17. The number of Auxiliary Fire and Rescue Stations by region as at 30 June 2016 is as follows:

QFES Region	Total
Brisbane	8
Central	28
Far Northern	16
North Coast	37
Northern	11
South Eastern	16
South Western	36
Total Auxiliary Stations	152

b) QFES continues to support the staffing of Auxiliary Fire and Rescue Stations throughout Queensland as they are integral to the service delivery model for regional communities. Auxiliary Fire and Rescue Stations are staffed by local community members who accept part time employment with QFES. The number of vacancies in any particular area can be influenced by full time employment opportunities, the local economy and demographic changes. QFES uses a number of strategies to recruit auxiliary staff, including targeted recruitment, alliances with local major employers and advertising campaigns.

Under the Palaszczuk Government, Auxiliary Firefighters are covered by a new Industrial Award, which provides enhanced conditions and wage rates. Auxiliary Firefighters were not previously covered by an Award and were compensated for their work by way of a stipend. It is anticipated that these enhanced incentives will encourage community members to become Auxiliary Firefighters.

QUESTION:

I refer to page 30 of the QFES SDS in relation to fire and emergency services and ask – how many fire events were attended in 2013/14, 2014/15 and 2015/16 by:

- a) Rural Fire Brigades;
- b) Auxiliary Fire Station; or
- c) Full-time Station?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the Question.

I am advised by Queensland Fire and Emergency Services that the number of fire events with primary attendance by Fire and Rescue personnel (which includes Permanent (Full Time), Auxiliary and Composite stations) and Rural Fire Service brigades in 2013/14, 2014/15 and 2015/16 is as follows:

Primary Attendance	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16 (preliminary)
Fire and Rescue (Total), including:	16,014	15,109	14,048
Permanent (Full Time) Stations	11,811	11,097	10,183
Auxiliary Stations	3,321	3,062	3,027
Composite Stations	882	950	838
Rural Fire Service Brigades	4,743	3,912	3,849
TOTAL	20,757	19,021	17,897



PREHEARING QUESTIONS ON NOTICE MINISTER FOR POLICE, FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES AND MINISTER FOR CORRECTIVE SERVICES

Question 7:

I refer to page 18 of the JAG SDS in relation to safely managing prisoners in custody and ask — what programs or projects were scrapped as part of the \$1.5 million re-allocation to fund additional infrastructure required at the Borallon Training and Correctional Centre?

Answer:

I am advised that no programs were cancelled to achieve the \$1.5 million of funds absorbed in the Department of Justice and Attorney-General's (the Department) budget to fund non-infrastructure compensatory initiatives at the Borallon Training and Correctional Centre.



ESTIMATES 2016 PREHEARING QUESTIONS ON NOTICE MINISTER FOR POLICE, FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES AND MINISTER FOR CORRECTIVE SERVICES

Question 8:

I refer to page 19 of the JAG SDS in relation to Corrective Services and ask – how much funding is allocated towards 'continuing to explore opportunities to increase reparation to the community through supervised community service and work camps for low risk prisoners in 2016/17 and what will the funding be used for?

Answer:

I thank the Member for the question.

I am advised that Queensland Corrective Services and the Toowoomba Regional Council are in active discussions about a potential work camp at Jondaryan.

QCS partners with not-for-profit organisations and local councils to supervise low risk offenders performing unpaid community work as part of their court order. The cost of supervision of offenders on community service orders is funded within the operational budget for the Probation and Parole Service.

The operation of work camps, including funding, and the pursuit of new opportunities for their use in regional communities, is a key priority and a core operational matter for both QCS and the Palaszczuk Government in 2016/17. As such, any cost associated with exploring new opportunities is borne by QCS from within its operational budget.

Graffiti removal and community service for alcohol-fuelled violence has a funded supervision model to enable low risk offenders to perform community service with additional flexibility to perform weekend work.

In 2015–16, funding of \$0.89M was allocated to community service for alcohol-fuelled violence. In 2016–17, \$0.91M is allocated to continue this activity.

By working with local councils and non-government organisations, QCS will continue to explore opportunities to increase community service and expand work camps.



PREHEARING QUESTIONS ON NOTICE MINISTER FOR POLICE, FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES AND MINISTER FOR CORRECTIVE SERVICES

Question 9:

I refer to page 19 of the JAG SDS in relation to safe workplaces and ask – what measures are being implemented, and at what cost, to address the increasing levels of assaults in our correctional facilities, including prisoner on officer and prisoner on prisoner?

Answer:

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to the safety of all Queensland Corrective Services (QCS) staff, and has zero tolerance for violence towards officers. Any assaults in Queensland correctional centres, regardless of intent, are taken seriously and referred to the Queensland Police Service and the Corrective Services Investigation Unit (CSIU).

I am advised by QCS that there has been a decrease in serious prisoner on staff assaults and that from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016, there has been one incident of serious prisoner on staff assault, compared to six serious assaults on staff in 2014-15.

QCS remains committed to delivering continuous improvement in delivering a safe environment for staff, visitors and offenders in the custodial and probation and parole environments. The response to assaults is embedded in the practices in every centre across the State and through training for new staff.

I am advised that QCS undertakes:

- regular profiling and analysis of assault incident data to identify trends and patterns;
- revised officer safety training package, including contemporary de-escalation training, situational awareness and a situational response model for both new and existing staff; and
- an ongoing focus on infrastructure blind spot identification, which may be addressed by retro-fit and which will inform future building and design.

QCS is also increasing the use of behaviour management strategies and monitoring.

QCS is also conducting a trial of body worn camera devices, with a number of units at QCS prisons as part of an evaluation that is expected to be completed by the end of 2016.



ESTIMATES 2016 PREHEARING QUESTIONS ON NOTICE MINISTER FOR POLICE, FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES AND MINISTER FOR CORRECTIVE SERVICES

Question 10:

I refer to page 18 of the JAG SDS in relation to the Borallon Training and Correctional Centre and ask –

- a. What is the additional capital and operational cost, reported separately, of changing the scope for the re-commissioning of this facility, compared with the model as proposed by the previous LNP Government in 2014/15;
- b. How many beds will be available once the full re-commissioning is complete; and
- c. What was the staffing allocation in 2015/16 (at what cost) and what is the allocation for 2016/17?

Answer:

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to the philosophy of the Borallon Training and Correctional Centre (BTCC), to deliver better outcomes through education, training and employment.

- a. In response to a safety audit regarding the safety of the prisoner cell infrastructure at BTCC, the Government decided to recommission the facility in stages, while capital works to enhance safety centre are completed.
- b. I am advised the capital costs allocated for the staged recommissioning of BTCC equate to \$126.90 million. This is \$70.4 million greater than the amount allocated in the 2014-15 financial year, which did not include the safe cell modifications that are now being progressed to 397 secure cells.

The operational costs allocated for the staged recommissioning of BTCC equate to \$91.506 million over three years. No funding had previously been approved by the former Government for operation of the centre and a cost comparison cannot be completed.

I am advised that at completion of the capital works, in 2017-18, there will be 492 built cells at the BTCC.

c. At full operational capacity, a total establishment of 265 staff is required for the operation of BTCC.

QCS had advised that:

In 2015-16, I am advised that the staffing establishment for BTCC was 183 full-time equivalent (FTE) at a cost of \$12.898 million.

For 2016-17, I am advised that the staffing establishment for BTCC is budgeted to be 183 FTE at a cost of \$16.69 million.



ESTIMATES 2016 PREHEARING QUESTIONS ON NOTICE MINISTER FOR POLICE, FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES AND MINISTER FOR CORRECTIVE SERVICES

Question 11:

I refer the Minister to page 18 of the Service Delivery Statement for his portfolio.

Will the Minister please advise the Committee of the benefits that will flow from the Palaszczuk Government's decision to provide additional funding of \$20.5 million over two years towards the Queensland Corrective Services' Probation and Parole Service, and Parole Boards?

Answer:

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to keeping Queenslanders safe through the strict management and supervision of offenders in the community. The supervision of probation and parole offenders is managed by dedicated staff across Queensland.

Across Queensland, our Probation and Parole Service delivers strong supervision, based on effective case management to more than 19,000 (as at 31 May 2016) offenders across seven regions, 34 district offices and 134 reporting centres.

In 2016-17, \$7.8 million will be allocated to:

- increase the number of frontline Probation and Parole Service officers across the State;
- increase advisory services to courts, including specialist courts;
- increase training and skill development of frontline Probation and Parole Service officers to improve the effectiveness of offender supervision; and
- establish an office of the High Risk Offender Management Unit in Townsville to supervise offenders under the *Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003*.



ESTIMATES 2016 PREHEARING QUESTIONS ON NOTICE MINISTER FOR POLICE, FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES AND MINISTER FOR CORRECTIVE SERVICES

Question 12:

I refer the Minister to SDS Page 18 and Budget Paper 3 Page 73 regarding the Perimeter Security Upgrade Program – Stage 2.

Will the Minister please advise how this funding will benefit the Maryborough Correctional Centre and contribute to community safety in other areas across Queensland?

Answer:

In 2016-17, the Palaszczuk Government has a strong capital investment plan for Queensland Corrective Services (QCS), with \$82.351 million dedicated in 2016-17.

The Government remains focussed on managing growth in prisoner numbers by providing additional prison infrastructure and correctional centre enhancements. Of the \$82.351 million in 2016-17, \$21 million has been allocated to continue Stage 2 of the \$76.6 million Perimeter Security Upgrade Program.

For Maryborough in particular, this includes upgrading analogue cameras and recording equipment to the latest digital standard, replacing perimeter intrusion detection systems with current technology, updating the security management system software and ensuring the security system network equipment and cabling is compatible with sufficient capacity to support the new technology.

QUESTION:

I refer the Minister to page 6 of the Service Delivery Statement for his portfolio.

Will the Minister please advise the Committee how the Palaszczuk Government has improved the capacity of the Queensland Police Service and Queensland Fire and Emergency Service through a focus on frontline recruitment and support, including the number of new starters since June 2015?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question. The Palaszczuk Government strongly supports Queensland's frontline police and emergency services staff and their efforts to create a safer Queensland.

During 2015-16, our Government delivered on its commitment to deliver an additional 266 police above attrition.

The Queensland Police Service has sworn in 712 new police officers between 1 June 2015 and 30 June 2016. During this period the QPS has grown by 359 officers (over and above attrition).

Since June 2015, 56 Recruit Firefighters successfully completed their recruit training and commenced work in various locations throughout Queensland.

There are currently two recruit courses underway, and another commencing in August, providing a total of 84 Recruit Firefighters scheduled to graduate before the end of 2016.

Recruitment activities are continuing with the 2017 Recruitment Campaign commencing on the 1 July 2016. This campaign will fulfil recruitment needs for 2017 with the first course to start in January 2017.

The Reserve Roster process has already provided an increase in permanent staff with an approved additional 49 firefighter positions over the next four years.

Not only will this increase in staff provide a strengthened response capability but it also offsets overtime costs and provides flexible employment options for QFES operational staff, including part time and casual positions.

In addition to the two mentioned strategies, an Auxiliary Firefighter Closed Merit Recruitment Process has recently been announced and will be incorporated as part of the 2017 QFES Basegrade Firefighter Recruitment Campaign.

QUESTION:

I refer the Minister to page 7 of the Service Delivery Statement for his portfolio.

Will the Minister please advise the Committee of the role of the Queensland Police Service in addressing alcohol-fuelled violence in Queensland, and outline Palaszczuk Government initiatives to curb late night violence and enhance safety for police officers?

ANSWER:

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to improving public safety for all Queenslanders, including a comprehensive and evidence-based strategy to reduce the incidence of alcohol fuelled violence.

We have introduced a number of key legislative and non-legislative initiatives. These measures seek to address alcohol-related harms and violence, particularly between midnight and 5am, and enhance the safety of all members of the community including police.

The Government committed to undertake intelligence-led policing in Safe Night Precincts and increase inspections by liquor licencing officers, particularly on Friday and Saturday nights. This was supported by a \$20 million funding commitment, over four years, to target alcohol-fuelled violence, organised crime and the drug ice.

The Palaszczuk Government continues to be committed to a whole-of-government response to addressing alcohol-related harms and violence impacting individuals, families and the broader community.

From an operational policing perspective, I am advised that QPS has strategies in place to undertake intelligence led policing operations for the purpose of addressing alcohol-fuelled violence. This allows police to target crime hotspots and better address demands for service where and when they happen.

At the local level, QPS continues to participate on the Public Safety Consultative Committees (PSCCs) of Safe Night Precinct boards and in local liquor accords; providing advice and assistance around minimising alcohol and other drug related harms and violence, promoting responsible practices, and minimise alcohol-related disturbances and public disorder.

QUESTION:

I refer to page 56 of the SDS and ask:

Will the Minister please provide the Committee with details of the \$74 million the Palaszczuk Government is investing in new and upgraded fire and emergency facilities, and equipment, and how these funds will support Queensland's hardworking emergency workers and volunteers on the frontline?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the Question. I am advised by Queensland Fire and Emergency Services that the \$74 million will go towards providing the following new and upgraded fire and emergency services facilities and equipment:

Amount	Investment
\$5.6 million	Commence the replacement of auxiliary fire and rescue stations at Childers, Gordonvale, Oakey, Rainbow Beach and Tara, and extension of the auxiliary fire and rescue station on Thursday Island
\$2.3 million	Continue replacement of the auxiliary fire and rescue station at Charleville and to commence the specialist response and training facility upgrade at North Rockhampton
\$9.8 million	To complete replacement of the permanent fire and rescue station at Petrie, permanent fire and rescue Rural Fire Service Queensland and State Emergency Service (SES) facilities at Bundaberg and the auxiliary fire and rescue station at Cunnamulla
\$8 million	To complete an upgrade of the permanent fire and rescue station at Bundamba, replacement the auxiliary fire and rescue station, Rural Fire Service Queensland and SES facility at Roma, and upgrade of the south western region headquarters at Charlton
\$2.9 million	To upgrade the Horn Island collocated Rural Fire Service Queensland and SES facility, the permanent fire and rescue and auxiliary fire and rescue station at Mount Isa and the Richmond auxiliary fire and rescue station
\$4 million	For strategic land acquisitions and Rural Fire Service land purchases
\$34.5 million	For replacement and new urban and rural fire appliances
\$3.9 million	For minor capital works across the State, including upgrades of fire and rescue station amenities
\$3.1 million	For operational and communications equipment across the state

QUESTION:

I refer the Minister to page 5 of the Service Delivery Statement for his portfolio.

Will the Minister please advise the Committee of initiatives that the Queensland Police Service is undertaking to combat the production and distribution of illicit drugs in the community, including any initiatives related to organised crime?

ANSWER:

The Queensland Police Service is the lead agency to respond to the production and distribution of illicit drugs and organised crime within the strategy to stop crime and make Queensland Safe.

Major and organised crime, particularly in relation to drugs, is a significant focus of resources for the Queensland Police Service (QPS). The QPS continues to focus on supply reduction strategies targeting criminal networks involved in the production, trafficking and distribution of illicit drugs including methylamphetamine (Ice).

The QPS continues to enforce the dangerous drug laws as they apply under the *Drugs Misuse Act 1986* for all offences relating to the trafficking, supply and production of dangerous drugs.

The QPS Strategic Plan 2015 – 2019 identified targeting serious and organised crime including major drug crime as a strategic challenge.

In response, the QPS established a number of multi-disciplinary taskforces, underpinned by improved intelligence capabilities, intelligence sharing and resource sharing, targeting serious and organised crime including major drug crime that poses the greatest risk to the community. This includes the targeting of Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs and organised criminal networks more broadly outside the OMCG sphere.

The QPS has prioritised increased liaison and cooperation with Commonwealth and State partner agencies to combat serious and organised crime networks involved in the importation, manufacture and trafficking of illicit drugs.

The QPS also continues to work through collaborative partnerships with the community, private sector and government agencies to target the organised supply and production of illicit drugs, and the diversion of chemicals and equipment in relation to illicit drug production.

Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services

The QPS has also committed to the implementation of recommendations resulting from the Queensland Organised Crime Report and the National Ice Task Force Report 2015.



PREHEARING QUESTIONS ON NOTICE MINISTER FOR POLICE, FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES AND MINISTER FOR CORRECTIVE SERVICES

Question 17:

I refer the Minister to SDS page 18 which refers to rehabilitating offenders and reducing recidivism and I ask:

Will the Minister please advise of any recent initiatives and activities designed to help prepare prisoners for post-release employment?

Answer:

The Palaszczuk Government is committed to rehabilitating offenders to keep the community safe, by facilitating access to programs and services for prisoners and offenders in partnership with government and community organisations.

The Government is committed to investing in education as a means to prepare prisoners for release into the community and to reduce recidivism. This is a key mechanism for achieving greater employability for prisoners and is a key focus for Queensland Corrective Services (QCS).

Educational services provided to prisoners includes literacy and numeracy programs, vocational education and training (VET), basic education (primary and secondary courses) and distance tertiary education courses. Education and vocational training is provided through a range of internal, external, funded and non-funded arrangements.

QCS facilitates a range of vocational training and literacy programs that provide prisoners with skills to gain and maintain employment when released from custody. Vocational training offered to prisoners includes courses in: hospitality, business, horticulture, construction, engineering, agriculture, mining, sport and recreation and information technology.

Training is primarily accessed through direct purchasing of vocational training and literacy/numeracy modules by QCS, or through State Government funding models such as the Certificate 3 Guarantee program. Prisoners can also access funding for training through VET Fee Help and HECS-HELP Study Assist.

QUESTION:

I refer the Minister to page 30 of the SDS where it mentions strengthening volunteer capability by investing in sustainable policies and programs, and I ask:

Will the Minister please advise what steps the Palaszczuk Government is taking to support those dedicated Queenslanders who give up their time to help others in times of emergencies?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question.

The Palaszczuk Government has increased investment in the Rural Fire Service (RFS) by \$5.6 million in 2016-17, to a total of \$42.9 million. An additional \$9.1 million will be invested in new and replacement rural appliances and land acquisitions for rural brigade stations, through the PSBA capital expenditure program.

On 1 July 2016, the Fuel and Vehicle Maintenance Funding Initiative was implemented for volunteer Rural Fire Brigades. This initiative will ensure safe and roadworthy vehicles through the provision of vehicle servicing and fuel for RFS asset registered vehicles. Vehicle maintenance will ensure RFS vehicles are compliant with roadworthy standards, without burdening brigades to meet the sometimes high cost of vehicle maintenance.

RFS Communications have been enhanced, with approximately 2100 portable and vehicle-based Government Wireless Network (GWN) radios delivered to all South East Queensland RFS brigades.

On 17 September 2015, the Queensland Parliament passed the *Workers' Compensation* and Rehabilitation and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2015, which provides RFS volunteers with greater certainty on workers' compensation coverage for latent onset diseases.

In 2016-17 the Palaszczuk Government is providing \$2.6 million to the State Emergency Service (SES) for personal protective and operational equipment. The Government will also provide \$712,000 for the capital grants program to assist SES Groups with acquisition and maintenance of facilities, vehicles and flood boats. A further \$1.95 million will be provided in local government subsidies to support the operation of SES Groups.

In addition, the Government will provide approximately \$8.8 million to support Marine Rescue volunteers through the Volunteer Marine Rescue Support Package, managed through service agreements with Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association (AVCGA),

Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services

Royal Life Saving Society Queensland (RLSSQ), Surf Life Saving Queensland (SLSQ) and Volunteer Marine Rescue Association Queensland (VMRAQ).

In 2016-17, the Government has allocated \$310,000 to the Emergency Services Cadets Program (ESCP) through a service agreement with the Police-Citizens Youth Welfare Association (PCYC), to support and encourage the next generation of volunteers. The ESCP is offered to young people between the ages of 12 and 17, and as at 31 March 2016, there were approximately 361 young Queenslanders actively involved this program.

QUESTION:

I refer the Minister to page 29 of the SDS where it notes the increased focus on disaster prevention, mitigation, preparation and recovery efforts, and I ask:

Will the Minister please advise what steps the Palaszczuk Government is taking to ensure continued improvements are made to emergency management arrangements to protect the lives and property of Queenslanders?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for the question. The Palaszczuk Government is working to ensure Queensland is prepared to respond to disasters.

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) provides strategic direction and leadership for the provision of Emergency Management policy, procedures and services. This is undertaken in a partnership approach to contribute to the resilience of local communities and agencies, across all emergency service phases (prevention, preparedness, response and recovery).

QFES is developing two risk based initiatives:

- The first is the development of a Queensland Emergency Risk Management
 Framework. This will be further developed following extensive consultation for use
 at the local/district and state levels enabling a consistent approach to risk
 management in a disaster context and will inform risk based planning.
- The second initiative entails the development of River Basin Schematics for water catchments in partnership with the Bureau of Meteorology, Department of Natural Resources and Mines and the Department of Energy and Water Supply. These profiles will enable real time situation awareness within the State Disaster Coordination Centre (SDCC) and at district and local levels of the real and potential impacts of flooding by monitoring various gauges across the state.

A new Disaster Management portal was launched on 30 June 2016 to provide an online hub for guidelines, policies, doctrine and tools for disaster management stakeholders across Queensland. The portal provides new functionality to connect and communicate innovative ideas, key information and promote disaster management calendar events for local areas. QFES received Natural Disaster Resilience Program funding of \$250,000 to deliver a new Disaster Management Portal by 30 June 2016.

The new Disaster Management portal is available at http://www.disaster.gld.gov.au/dmportal/.

QFES continues to review Disaster Management Guidelines which is a requirement under the Disaster Management Act 2003. There have been 10 guidelines prioritised for review in the next two years and the Policy and Guideline for Offers of Assistance was completed in May 2016.

The Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience was developed to create Australia's most disaster resilient state. In order to increase the level of disaster risk awareness and preparedness in the community, QFES staff are working with local councils to engage at a local level and deliver key messages about local risks. Regional engagement activities have included running community safety days.

Lastly, the \$5 million "If it's flooded, forget it" campaign targets decision making for crossing flooded roads. The Campaign was launched on 1 November 2015 Queensland wide and includes commercials over TV, radio, print, web and social media. A web based tool has also been developed to identify alternate routes around flooded roads and reviews of this program have indicated that it is successful in changing the mindset of people when confronted with these situations.

My portfolio also includes the Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management.

The Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management has led and delivered a range of key initiatives in collaboration with key stakeholders to further enhance disaster management excellence and preparedness in Queensland including:

- reviewing and assessing disaster management arrangements through a risk based approach
- undertaking detailed assessments of the 2015-16 disaster management plans of local and district disaster management groups
- establishing a network of Disaster Management Officers and Local Disaster Coordinators from councils across Queensland
- developing an online Prioritisation Tool to be used by entities as a health check of their current arrangements
- continuing to implement the Emergency Management Assurance Framework and Standard for Disaster Management through workshops and presentations.

All of these emergency management arrangements are in place to protect the lives and property of Queenslanders.



ESTIMATES 2016 PREHEARING QUESTIONS ON NOTICE MINISTER FOR POLICE, FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES AND MINISTER FOR CORRECTIVE SERVICES

Question 20:

I refer the Minister to page 18 of the Service Delivery Statement and I ask:

With regards to the modernisation of the technology used to electronically monitor high risk sex offenders, will the Minister please provide the committee with details of the upgrades and how they will enhance community safety in Queensland?

Answer:

The Palaszczuk Government makes no apology for taking a hard stance on managing dangerous sexual offenders after their release from custody. The *Dangerous Prisoners* (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003 (DPSOA) was introduced to ensure our community is kept safe.

In 2011, Queensland Corrective Services (QCS) introduced a GPS Electronic Monitoring system for high risk sexual offenders, subject to continuing supervision orders under the DPSOA. GPS tracking is applied to offenders, in conjunction with intensive case management strategies, to reinforce the strict supervision provided by QCS.

The Palaszczuk Government has committed an additional \$5.1 million over four years and funding of \$1.3 million per annum ongoing to modernise the technology used to electronically monitor high risk sex offenders in the community and implement a Geographic Information System (GIS).

Contemporary electronic monitoring technologies continue to provide a cost efficient solution to effectively and consistently monitor offenders.

The Queensland Government recognises the need to harness new technology as it emerges and the GPS tracking system is no exception.

QCS has engaged a specialised GIS provider to augment the GPS tracking system with additional mapping and analysis capabilities. New mapping capability with GIS will integrate with the GPS tracking systems in 2016-17.

By investing in the latest technology, the Queensland Government is ensuring the safety of Queenslanders remains the highest priority.

Questions Taken on Notice and Answers



21 July 2016

Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services – Question taken on notice

Ouestion:

The member for Everton tabled a media article from the Cairns Post, dated 17 May, and asked the Commissioner, QCS, whether he was aware that a custodial officer featured in the article had left a high security prisoner escort to attend that media opportunity, placing other officers in risk.

Answer:

Queensland Corrective Services has advised that:

- QCS has been made aware of the allegation.
- QCS is not in a position to confirm whether this allegation is true.
- This has been referred to the Department of Justice and Attorney General Ethical Standards Unit for investigation.
- As it is currently the subject of an investigation, I am unable to comment further.

Documents Tabled





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Sunday Mail (Brisbane), Brisbane 29 May 2016, by Steven Wardill

General News, page 1 - 555.00 cm² Capital City Daily - circulation 342,381 (-----S)

ID 601866000

BRIEF OOTLOTO-N INDEX 1

PAGE 1 of 2

JALLHOUSE CROCK CELLS SO FULL INMATES BUNKING DOWN AND BEING RELEASED EARLY



STEVEN WARDILL

STATE POLITICAL EDITOR

INMATES are having to bunk together and are being fasttracked for earlier release as the State Government battles a jam-packed jail problem.

Corrective Services has admitted it is deploying "buddy cells" and temporary bunk beds, trundle beds and mattresses, with resources being prioritised for "diversion, community supervision and re-entry services as part of a demand management strategy". Nine out of II prisons are over capacity, with the worst at 130 per cent over capacity.

Corrective Services Minister Bill Byrne blamed the previous LNP government for a 30 per cent surge in prisoners.

Report P5

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Sunday Mail (Brisbane), Brisbane 29 May 2016, by Steven Wardill

General News, page 1 - 555.00 cm² Capital City Daily - circulation 342,381 (-----S)

ID 601866000

BRIEF OOTLOTO-N INDEX 1

PAGE 2 of 2

LABOR SPEEDS UP JAIL EXITS

EXCLUSIVE STEVEN WARDILL

THE Palaszczuk Government has resorted to helping fast-track the release of inmates as a solution to Queensland's jam-packed jails.

Queensland Corrective Services has conceded resources are now being prioritised toward "diversion, community supervision and re-entry services" to tackle the state's booming prison population.

The department has also deployed the "buddy cell" system, where an extra bed is squeezed into a cell, along with the use of temporary bunks, trundle beds and mattresses to tackle the issue.

New figures show nine of the state's 11 prisons are over capacity with the 270-bed Brisbane Women's Correctional Centre at Wacol the most crammed with 371 inmates.

The funnelling of cash into demand management techniques to cut the prison population comes as the cashstrapped Labor Government struggles to fund infrastructure.

The Government delayed the reopening of the mothballed Borallon Prison last year which will help ease the overpopulation problem from July. Corrective Services Minister Bill Byrne blamed the Newman government for overseeing a surge in prisoner numbers for the problem.

"Prisoner numbers increased by almost 30 per cent

under the previous LNP government," he said.

"The Palaszczuk Government is working to provide short, medium and long term solutions"

A QCS spokesman said reducing high-security female prisoner numbers was a priority.

"QCS is prioritising resources for diversion, community supervision and re-entry services as part of a demand management strategy for women," he said.

Tenders for both men and women re-entry services, aimed at helping prisoners prepare successfully for parole and reduce reoffending, were finalised earlier this year.

The spokesman said to tackle immediate pressure across the system, QCS was using "buddy cells and temporary bunk beds, trundle beds and mattresses in secure cells or residential areas".

Notorious "bum-crack bandit" Eboni Pydde successfully argued for her parole to be reconsidered last week after claiming overcrowding contributed to rule breaches.

"She didn't feel safe being in a confined cell with another prisoner," Justice Peter Applegarth said in summarising Pydde's submission.

Opposition corrective services spokesman Tim Mander said allowing criminals to avoid jail and letting them out was a "ridiculous response to prison overcrowding".

EDITORIAL P70

to see whether or not the boot camp would work. They did not bother to do a report on the \$2 million trial. Do members remember that \$2 million trial? Where is the report? When we were in opposition, there was no report. Why did we throw \$16 million into this program? Because there was panic in the government! The numbers were going through the roof. They would not publish the crime statistics, they would not account to this House and they certainly would not account through the estimates process. In 2014, they tried to craft this thing. The then attorney-general threw mountains of money into it. Tonight, they come in here, oppose these bills and have the gall to suggest that they had some sort of plan.

They had no idea when they started. They had no idea throughout the process. They have no idea today. That is evidenced by those committee members who sat through the hearings. Members should have a look at the statement of reservation. It is sloganistic. It is not based on sense. It is complete and utter nonsense. People who understand the facts of this issue will look at the opposition's contribution and say it is shameful.

I heard unions mentioned a couple of times. I am not going to finish without this point. The member for Everton was in Townsville at that community meeting and did not say boo. He did not get up and make his contribution. He did not say anything like he said this evening—not a word. He sat down the back as quiet as a church mouse.

He is very keen to talk to somebody. He is very keen to talk to the unions. He is making approaches to talk to the unions about prisons. All of a sudden I find out that he is very keen about unions. I hope he gets to talk to a few more.

Mr COSTIGAN (Whitsunday—LNP) (12.20 am): I am delighted to rise tonight and give my two bob's worth in relation to the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015 and the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. I extend a welcome to Super Saturday in this House as this debate drags on.

The Minister for Police has a hide talking about the member for Everton and shadow minister saying nothing. According to my spies at the youth crime forum in Townsville on 6 June, the Minister for Police—I do not know what he was doing; I am no Brad Pitt—must have been there as eye candy because he was mute. That is according to my spies in Townsville in North Queensland. Maybe he is auditioning as a crash test dummy for the Toyota corporation. He turned up under instructions from the Premier, according to the material that I have read, and did not say boo. It is interesting that I have the opportunity and privilege to follow the Minister for Police in this debate.

A lot has been said in this debate. It is a serious issue. That is one thing that all members in the House tonight can agree on. Where the argy-bargy comes in, like most areas of public policy, is how we get the right outcome. Like a number of members in this House, I have been in many regional communities where we saw, prior to the election of the LNP government, youth crime that was getting out of control. I have stood in this House before and lamented how it used to be.

I go back to Rockhampton, for example—exhibit A—and publican Will Cordwell. He put up with it for years and years. It was not until the LNP came to office and took the big stick approach that things changed. What was being done under successive Labor governments was clearly not working. Mr Cordwell, a long time publican in Rockhampton and former publican of the now defunct Causeway Hotel in Townsville—I remember it fondly—is no stranger to the pub game. He never saw it as bad as on Labor's watch. He was broken into time and time again.

In my own electorate of Whitsunday I think of Janine and Steve Mulla. They have been victims of youth crime some months ago. I was in the Dikey Arcade on the day after or two days after they had been broken into. It was a financial impost of several thousand dollars. They were counting the cost of being done over by people who obviously have no respect for those people who are hardworking, decent and contribute to our community.

It is a difficult job for the police. We have heard in this debate comments attributed to my good friend and former councillor on the Townsville City Council Gary Eddiehausen. Gary has been a terrific member of the community over a long period. I see his former colleague the member for Burdekin and shadow minister for agriculture nodding. I have had the privilege of knowing Gary for 21 years.

He used to be on duty in the blue uniform at 1300SMILES stadium in the electorate of Thuringowa. He was there on the opening night when the Cowboys entered the competition and the member for Everton had a shocker. He has not had a shocker in this debate, but we will forgive him for that game after winning the premiership last year.



PRISONERS RUN RIOT

EXCLUSIVE STEVEN WARDILL

State's jam-packed jails turning into fight clubs

EXTRA out-of-cell activity time is being used to tackle a massive surge in assaults in Queensland's jam-packed jails.

Damning new figures have revealed a threefold increase in the number of assaults on officers as inmates increasingly are being crammed together under the makeshift "buddy cell" system

Prisoner-on-prisoner assaults have also rapidly increased during the past 12 months, with nine of H Queensland correctional facilities now operating at over capacity after a surge in the prison population.

Corrective Services Minister Bill Borne has admitted he was concerned about the spiralling assault rate and conceded overcrowding had contributed to the issue

Mr Byrne said Queensland Corrective Services was trialling body-worn cameras among several strategies in an attempt to reduce the assault rate

"QCS is also responding to prisoner assaults by increasing out-of-cell activity, increasing the use of behaviour management strategies and monitoring key areas where prisoner violence is likely to occur." he told The Sunday Mail.

Tacknowledge the increase in prisoner assaults is partly due to incremowding in the state's prison system, and the Palaszczuk Government is ad-

dressing this issue with short medium and long-term solu-

The Sunday Mail recently revealed the Palaxezuk Government had resorted to helping fast-track the release of inmates as a solution to the state's booming prison population.

The new figures, contained in a Budget paper, reveal a 265 per cent increase in assaults on officers; however, the number of incidents deemed "serious" had declined.

Serious assaults between prisoners increased by 79 per cent, while there was a 51 per cent increase in other assaults between inmates

Mr Byrne blamed the former Newman government for the assault surge, saying the only plan to address it was to bankroll more prisons with asset sales.

"These statistics are frankly

symptoms of the printordial assault on the justice system; that occurred during the New man/Hlegie era," he said

Opposition corrective services spokesman. Tim. Mander said Labor was putting officers at risk.

atrisk, "Under Labor's watch our prisons have turned into fight clubs and I have serious concerns for the safety of our corrective services staff across Queensland," he said.

"If Bill Byrne can't fix this issue, he should stand aside and let someone else do the job he is paid to do."

Cairns Post



Stack at the front of the correctional facility after Monday's strike. PICTURE: KATHERINE KOKKONEN

Tableland

Lotus Glen corrections officers strike over fight for compensation

Katherine Kokkonen and Kimberley Vlasic, The Cairns Post May 17, 2016 5:00am

CORRECTIONS officers at a Tablelands prison are fighting for fairer workers' compensation amid claims they are assaulted by prisoners on a weekly basis.

About 60 Lotus Glen staff yesterday joined hundreds of other union members in stopping work as part of industrial action at five of Queensland's largest correctional centres.

Together has put forward three motions, including better compensation for officers injured on the job, to the State Government ahead of negotiations resuming tomorrow.

Lotus Glen custodial officer and Together spokesman Christian Wolff said prisoners regularly threatened to spit or throw hot water on officers.

"On a weekly basis there's at least one incident where an officer is assaulted or injured through prisoners' actions," he said.

"We don't want to have any special treatment, we just want to be treated fairly."

Fellow officer and union member John Stack said conditions at Lotus Glen had deteriorated over the past 25 years.

"Community support is important because we don't feel we have that, and that makes it easier for the employer to say no to you," he said.

The LNP has urged the Government to fast-track the reopening of the Borallon Correctional Centre, near Ipswich, to deal with a "surging prisoner population".

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Overcrowding puts prison officers in danger

Bill Byrne | Posted Monday, 6 August 2012

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Shadow Corrective Services Minister Bill Byrne says the overcrowding of Southern Queensland Correctional Centre, at Gatton risks the safety of prison officers.

Mr Byrne said he understood Corrective Services had confirmed the prison which had a 300 person capacity was currently holding 337 prisoner, with more expected to be transferred there.

"The LNP Government's recent sudden closure of the Darling Downs Correctional Centre has resulted in the overcrowding, which is risking the prison security and corrective services staff safety," Mr Byrne said.

"The overcrowding will raise the risk of unrest, or even worse, result in more violent attacks against staff and fellow inmates as tensions rise because of lack of space.

"With the Newman Government's so-called "tough on crime" plan to increase jail sentences, resulting in more prisoners in our jails, the Corrective Services Minister Jack Dempsey needs to explain why he is putting the safety of Corrective Services staff at risk.

"Frontline prison staff now have to bear the brunt of the hasty decision the LNP Government made to close the Darling Downs facility and cram prisoners into Gatton, with no forward planning.

"Should there be any incidents at the Gatton facility because of overcrowding the Corrective Services Minister needs to be held personally responsible.

"The overcrowding at Gatton shatters the Newman Government's myth that its savage funding cuts are not hitting frontline jobs and services.

"I don't think anyone could seriously consider a prison is anything but a frontline facility and prison officers anything but frontline staff."

Tagged Frontline Services

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The Australian, Australia

21 Jul 2016, by Geoff Chambers Sarah Elks

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Stay out of talks, rural fireys warn union

EXCLUSIVE

GEOFF CHAMBERS SARAH ELKS

The head of Queensland's 36,000-strong Rural Fire Brigade Association has warned heavyweights in the powerful national United Firefighters Union to stay out of Queensland and leave the state's volunteers alone.

RFBAQ general manager Justin Choveaux will meet government representatives tomorrow to

discuss his push for new "volunteer respect" legislation to give emergency service volunteers a voice. He told *The Australian* that if such laws existed — requiring the government to consult with volunteers on major relevant issues — the Country Fire Authority dispute in Victoria would not have blown up.

"The UFU is not about defending communities, it's about satisfying their strategic objective of more of us and more for us," Mr Choyeaux said.

He pointed to legislation

passed in Queensland's hung parliament last year that ensured volunteer firefighters who contracted cancer on the job would receive workers' compensation.

National and Victorian UFU secretary Peter Marshall opposed the change, saying there was not enough evidence to support the inclusion of volunteers.

Mr Choveaux said any further interference by Mr Marshall would not be welcome. He said the situation in Victoria, where the union pushed for paid firefighters to be prevented from taking orders

from volunteers, should not be replicated in Queensland.

However, Queensland UFU secretary John Oliver said although the state branch was about to begin enterprise bargaining

negotiations with the government, it would not affect volunteers.

"The Victorian situation as far

as we were concerned was a beatup from political interests," he said. "Queensland is a different situation. Our EBA negotiations that are about to start have nothing in them that would be of any concern for any bush fire brigade."

Mr Oliver said the Queensland situation was very different to that in Victoria, because the volunteers in each state did very different work. He said in Queensland volunteers fought grassfires and

bushfires and only rarely dealt with structural fires, the breadand-butter work of paid firefighters. He said Mr Marshall's position on workers' compensation was a "national" position and did not say whether he supported it personally.

Mr Choveaux said Queensland rural firefighters cover up to 93 per cent of the state, with 1400 brigades. There were concerns the UFU would attempt to expand its "militant" and "irrational" activity across the nation, attempting to run fire services, and organising

negotiations on pay and conditions.

Despite Mr Marshall's opposition to the cancer-related legislation, Mr Choveaux said three families were now benefiting from the changes. "Three volunteer firefighters have been covered for cancer coverage, supported by this legislation," he said.

He said he had received support from the Liberal National Party and independent Speaker Peter Wellington for his proposed reforms. Although the legislation is not yet drafted, Mr Choveaux

said it would revive and rework an Emergency Services Advisory Council that had not met since 2011, but would be a framework for consultation with emergency services volunteers.

The "legal framework" would give clear direction to state and federal governments matters such as contracts and enterprise agreement, giving volunteers "a genuine and equal say". The new law would

help empower key volunteer groups, including the State Emergency Service, Volunteer Marine Rescue and St John Ambulance.





Marshall

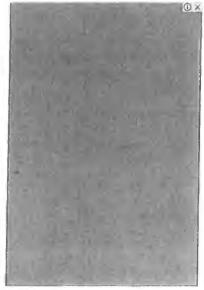
Choveaux

WEEKLY TIMES

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Qld Government denies claims of plan to close auxiliary fire stations

ANDREA CROTHERS, The Weekly Times June 24, 2016 2:15pm

EXCLUSIVE: THE Queensland Government has denied claims it was planning to shut down up to 30 Fire and Emergency Service auxiliary stations across the state.

Minister for Fire and Emergency Services Bill Byrne responded to the claims today, guaranteeing "there will be no closures of auxiliary fire stations in Queensland".

"Anything to the contrary is completely false," Mr Byrne said.

The promise came following a *Weekly Times* investigation into allegations of a plan to replace a number of auxiliary stations with volunteer-run services — such as the Rural Fire Service and State Emergency Service — in cost-cutting measures.

The proposal sparked fears some rural communities would be left to fend for themselves in times of emergency.



🖒 Bili Byrne

Auxiliary firefighters are paid part-time QFES employees and are on-call 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

They are required to complete relevant training to respond to a range of emergencies from road accidents to chemical spills and house fires.

While the Rural Fire Service supports QFES in protecting communities — there are more than 36,000 volunteers across the state — they are limited in their capacity to respond, with the Firefighter Minimum Skills training program concentrated on responding to wildfires and hazard mitigation.

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Local sources told *The Weekly Times* they'd recently attended meetings in the South West Region, where QFES Assistant Commissioner Stephen Smith was said to have revealed news of a looming restructure.

This was confirmed by Darryl Williamson, president of United Firefighters Union Queensland, Toowoomba branch, who said he was told the same information in a recent management meeting with Assistant Commissioner Smith.

"It was mentioned by Mr Smith that money in this region was tight and the things he was looking at was six to eight auxiliary stations may be converted back to rural stations based on their call-out rates and low staffing levels," Mr Williamson said.

"He basically said, "Why are we allocating X amount of money to these stations when we can't even get crews, when we can utilise that money elsewhere?" "

Mr Williamson said the assistant commissioner was also reviewing the capacity to which individual staff and volunteers were skilled and considering limiting training to common incidents in the local response area to reduce overhead costs.

"I've got grave concerns for the safety of all QFES staff within the South West region, due to low staffing and training, because we know our members will put themselves at risk to help a fellow community member regardless of appropriate training," Mr Williamson said.

The South West is one of seven QFES regions and spans from Toowoomba in the east to the South Australian border.

The proposed cut would have equated to 20 per cent of total stations in the region.

Auxiliary stations in towns such as Wandoan on the Western Downs, and Bollon and Dirranbandi in the Balonne Shire, were said to be facing the chopping block.

The station in Morven, a tiny western Queensland town whose only pub was destroyed by fire two months ago, was also under threat.

But when questioned yesterday, Mr Smith denied any suggestion of budgetary changes to the region.

"That's not the case, there is no budgetary changes to the South West," Mr Smith said.

He further rejected claims that QFES were earmarking a number of auxiliary stations to transition to voluntary-based services.

"We're looking at all of our stations as how to deliver our services, it is about how we can support these services," Mr Smith said.

Assistant Commissioner Smith said the "significant vacancies in auxiliary" across the region to the tune of 75 openings was a huge challenge, and alternative service delivery options were being openly discussed with communities struggling to recruit minimum establishment numbers.

"We're not in the space of looking to convert one way or another ... potentially we don't have an auxiliary service and ... we train a volunteer group in the region, or possibly have a combination of that," Mr Smith said.

All service models would be tailored to individual communities, Mr Smith said, with incident rates drawn upon in decision making.

WEEKLY TIMES

address that," Mr Smith said.

Shadow Fire and Emergency Services Minister Tim Mander's own inquiries corroborated the reports of a proposed plan to reduce services.

"I've heard there are six to eight auxiliary services to be cut in the south west region, there could be up to 30 across the state," Mr Mander told *The Weekly Times* yesterday.

"This is a real blow to rural communities.

"It means that the response times for house fires and road accidents in those communities will be far longer, which I think is just a real kick in the guts for those communities.

"The process seems to have been pretty poor as well because there seems to be little or no consultation ... it's just an insult."

Mr Mander had called on Mr Byrne to guarantee the auxiliary fire services would remain in the local communities.

The issue comes just months after an industrial award covering auxiliary firefighters was introduced in Queensland, taking effect on January 1.

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CODE 2, VOL 30, NO 30: 07 july 2016

On Thursday 7 July 2016 Mr Bill Byrne, Queensland Minister for Fire and Emergency Services issued a statement to your union in support of FCO's and the retention of their employment.

The statement reads -

Recent speculation in Queensland Fire and Emergency Services has contributed to considerable uncertainty over the future of the roles and tasks within Communications Centres across the state.

As Minister, it is important that the government's position is made crystal clear.

Under the Palaszczuk Government, there is no intention to accept job losses as part of any proposals. It is reasonable that improvements in communications technology will allow different operating models and hopefully greater efficiency in terms of managing calls and communication within Queensland Fire and Emergency Services.

I expect those dividends to be measured in terms of timeliness and responsiveness and not on bottom line salary savings. For me, the priority is more timely and efficient response and coordination within the service

and not FTE savings. It's about the customer, the people of Queensland. Tabled by Mr Mandal M

Any measures to improve timeliness and responsiveness will be considered by Government with stakeholders and chief among those are members of the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services.

It is my hope that matters are now clarified from government and that we can move forward providing a quality Queensland Fire and Emergency Service to Queenslanders.

We are thankful for the Minister taking the time to clarify the position of the Queensland Palaszczuk government, in that the savings expected from GWN are to be realised in better services to Queensland, and not in penny pinching by QFES.

Commissioner Carroll's statement to rural bush fire brigades

On Tuesday 5 July 2016, the QFES Commissioner made a statement to rural bush brigade crews.

In the statement, your Commissioner says -

"...there will be no closures of any communications centres...that is not negotiable.".

I am sure all FCO, professional and auxiliary members of the UFUQ welcome this undertaking from the Commissioner.

Open and consultative approach

Your Union has written to the QFES requesting detailed information on current rostering, staffing and employment numbers.

Once we get a true picture of the current FCO staffing model, we can work with QFES to get the staffing numbers right, and to maximise permanent employment and appointments to rank.

We can then move forward in a proper and rational way to make sure that any future 'Gateway' model has been appropriately developed and implemented in a consultative way and is working properly.

I will, as always, keep you fully informed as the matter progresses.

John Oliver - State Secretary

Authorised by John Oliver State Secretary
United Firefighters' Union of Australia, Union of Employees – QLD

v30#30 Minister for Fire and Emergency Services issues statement to UFUQ regarding future of communication centres

In this Edition - UPDATE: Firecom GWN

v30#29 Breaking News Secret Firecom Plan Suspended!

In this edition - Breaking News Secret Firecom Plan Suspended!

v30#27 Important update for all members on the QFES plan for Firecom locations

From: WeaponsLicensingEnquiry@police.gld.gov.au

Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2016 PN

To:

Subject: Concealable Renewal.

Please <u>do not</u> respond to this e-mail as it is a "no reply" e-mail address. Should you wish to reply or respond with further information regarding your application please e-mail these inquiries to <u>weaponslicensing@police.qld.gov.au</u> to allow your application to progress.

All emails should quote your Case ID above in the subject title.

Dear ,

Thank you for your time today.

As discussed there have been some changes to the Genuine Reason allowed for Cat H Concealable occupational/ primary production licenses.

The Model Code of Practice published by CSIRO on behalf of Department or Environment and Heritage Protection, states that humane destruction of feral animals and livestock can only be met with rifles (cat A, B, C or D)

With your application, you are now required to submit the following information if you wish to proceed.

- A letter from your accountant stating you are primarily engaged on the property as a primary producer and registered with the ATO for taxation reasons.
- A Category H Survey (information on the property you use the concealable on)

This would then be forwarded to the Authorised Officer for rejection as Concealables for this genuine reason are not being renewed.

You are invited to withdraw your application and receive a full refund in due course, or continue to be rejected.

Please keep in mind that a rejection will put a mark on your file against other applications you submit.

The only reason allowed is sports target. To be issued for this, you need to withdraw / place weapon into a dealer/join a pistol club, complete the required shoots over 6 months and then apply for a licence.

Once approved, you may have the weapon released to you.

Tabled ley no Mardu MP

8 - muse
6.18 pm July 2016

If you wish to withdraw, dispose of your weapon, we need to sight the document you receive from the dealer and then a refund will be processed. You will need to hand in your licence card once you elect to withdraw.

Please see the attached document to view the Model Code of Practice.

Please call me on to discuss further.

Sincerely,



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Courier 4 Mail



help alleviate the problem. (File pic)

QLD News

Inala police officers using bicycles because of car shortage

Jason Tin, The Courier-Mail June 10, 2016 12:00am

CARPOOL COPS: 'We beg and borrow cars off each other'

A POLICE station in Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk's own electorate of Inala is battling a shortfall in vehicles, with officers using bicycles to help alleviate the problem.

The Courier-Mail yesterday revealed Queensland police were being forced to rely on public transport to make court appearances and reach foot patrol areas due to the lack of vehicles across the state.

The Queensland Police Union believes another 200 vehicles would need to be added to the state's fleet to meet the extra demand generated by more than 1000 new police over recent years.

Just seven vehicles are shared between what typically amounts to 65 officers at Inala police station.

There are 77 general duties staff at the station, of which 12 are permanently rotated through a local watchhouse.

The State Government has argued there are eight marked vehicles but the Police Union's metro south region representative, Senior Sergeant Tony Collins, says one of those cars usually cannot be accessed as it is a "school-based vehicle".

"Every time school's on, the car's at the school – it can't be used by first response," he said.

"It might be available after-hours but it can't be used during the day."

The state also pointed to officers having access to two escort vehicles and a number of cars used by the Tactical Crime Squad and the Child Protection and Investigation Unit.

But the union says those vehicles should not be included in the count, arguing the escort vehicles cannot be used for first-response situations – unless in exceptional circumstances – while cars belonging to special units are needed by those units.

Sen-Sgt Collins says he is of the "firm belief that there is a shortfall of vehicles" at Inala station, which he said used a number of bicycles to alleviate the use of vehicles.

"They've got bicycles that they use on an ad hoc basis," he said.

Sen-Sgt Collins was adamant the station was under-resourced with cars.

"We've got the bare minimum for first response, but nothing's been taken into account for every other bit of duty that we do."