

2018 – 19 Budget Estimates

Report No. 18, 56th Parliament
Legal Affairs and Community Safety
Committee
August 2018

Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

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Acknowledgements

The committee thanks the:

- Attorney-General and Minister for Justice
- Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services, and
- Minister for Fire and Emergency Services.

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

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Abbreviations

AD Act	<i>Anti-Discrimination Act 1991</i>
ADCQ	Anti-Discrimination Commission Queensland
CCC	Crime and Corruption Commission
committee	Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee
DJAG	Department of Justice and Attorney-General
ECQ	Electoral Commission Queensland
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IGEM	Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management
LAQ	Legal Aid Queensland
OIC	Office of the Information Commissioner
OQO	Office of the Queensland Ombudsman
PAHSU	Princess Alexandra Hospital Secure Unit
PCYC	Police-Citizens Youth Clubs
PLA	Prostitution Licensing Authority
PSBA	Public Safety Business Agency
QCS	Queensland Corrective Services
QFCC	Queensland Family and Child Commission
QFES	Queensland Fire and Emergency Services
QPS	Queensland Police Service
RFS	Rural Fire Service
SES	State Emergency Service

Chair's foreword

This report presents a summary of the committee's examination of the budget estimates for the 2018-2019 financial year.

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

The committee has recommended that the proposed expenditure, as detailed in the Appropriation Bill 2018 for the committee's areas of responsibility, be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly without amendment.

On behalf of the committee, I thank the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services, and the Minister for Fire and Emergency Services, and their departmental officers for their co-operation in providing information to the committee throughout this process.

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

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



Peter Russo MP
Chair

August 2018

1 Introduction

1.1 Role of the committee

The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee (the committee) is a portfolio committee of the Queensland Parliament, which commenced on 15 February 2018 under the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001* and the Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Assembly.

The committee's primary areas of responsibility are:

- Justice and Attorney-General
- Police and Corrective Services
- Fire and Emergency Services.¹

The committee also has oversight functions in relation to the Queensland Ombudsman, Office of the Information Commissioner, the Electoral Commissioner and the Queensland Family and Child Commission.

1.2 Estimates process

On 12 June 2018, the Appropriation Bill 2018 and the estimates for the committee's areas of responsibility were referred to the committee for investigation and report.²

The committee provided the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services and the Minister for Fire and Emergency Services, with questions on notice in relation to the estimates prior to the public hearing. Responses to all the questions were received.

On 26 July 2018, the committee conducted a public hearing and took evidence about the proposed expenditure from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services and the Minister for Fire and Emergency Services and other witnesses.

The transcript and broadcast of the hearing, the tabled documents, and the answers to questions taken on notice prior to, and at, the hearing can be accessed at <http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/work-of-committees/committees/LACSC/inquiries/current-inquiries/Estimates2018>.

1.3 Aim of this report

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

- budget papers
- answers to pre-hearing questions on notice
- evidence taken at the hearing
- answers to questions taken on notice at the hearing.

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

¹ Standing Rules and Orders, Schedule 6. The schedule provides that departments, statutory authorities, government owned corporations or other administrative units related to the relevant Minister's responsibilities regarding these areas are included.

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

A volume of additional information tabled with this report includes the answers provided to the committee's pre-hearing questions on notice; documents tabled during the hearing; answers provided by Ministers after the hearing; correspondence; and minutes of the committee's meetings.

1.4 Participation of non-committee members

The following members sought leave to appear from the committee and participated in the hearing:

- Mr Michael Berkman MP, Member for Maiwar
- Mr Jarrod Bleijie MP, Member for Kawana
- Ms Sandy Bolton MP, Member for Noosa
- Mr David Janetzki MP, Member for Toowoomba South
- Mr Lachlan Millar MP, Member for Gregory
- Mr Trevor Watts MP, Member for Toowoomba North

2 Recommendation

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

Recommendation

The committee recommends that the proposed expenditure, as detailed in the Appropriation Bill 2018 for the committee's areas of responsibility, be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly without amendment.

3 Attorney-General and Minister for Justice

The Hon Yvette D’Ath MP is the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and is responsible for the Department of Justice and Attorney-General (DJAG). The department has three service areas:

- Justice Services
- Legal and Prosecution Services
- Liquor, Gaming and Fair Trading.

In addition, the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice is responsible for the:

- Anti-Discrimination Commission Queensland (ADCQ)
- Crime and Corruption Commission (CCC)
- Electoral Commission of Queensland (ECQ)
- Queensland Family and Child Commission (QFCC)
- Office of the Information Commissioner (OIC)
- Office of the Queensland Ombudsman (OQO)
- Public Trustee of Queensland (Public Trustee)
- Legal Aid Queensland (LAQ).

The following table compares the appropriations for the department for 2017-18 and 2018-19.

Appropriations	2017-18 \$'000	2018-19 \$'000
<i>Controlled Items</i>		
departmental services	1,565,592	500,663
equity adjustment	(8,738)	(28,959)
<i>Administered Items</i>	382,547	471,090
Vote	1,939,401	888,794

Source: Appropriation Bill 2018, Schedule 2, p. 11.

3.1 Department of Justice and Attorney-General

Budgeted capital expenditure for DJAG for 2018-19 is \$44.5 million. The capital budget highlights for the department include:

- \$6.5 million of \$12 million to upgrade the Rockhampton courthouse
- \$3.7 million of \$11 million to upgrade the Beenleigh courthouse
- \$3.7 million of \$9 million to upgrade the Townsville courthouse
- \$8.4 million to expand and upgrade existing audio visual capacity in the justice system, which includes video conferencing and in-custody court appearances
- \$9.4 million to continue the ongoing program of minor works in courthouses
- \$8.3 million of \$9.8 million to implement an online Blue Card application system.³

³ Queensland Budget 2018-19 - Capital Statement – Budget Paper No. 3, p 69.

A selection of DJAG's key priorities and initiatives for 2018-19 are:

- continuing to implement domestic and family violence reform initiatives in Queensland
- responding to justice issues arising from the recommendations of the *Royal Commission into the Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse*
- developing human rights legislation in Queensland
- ensuring that there are appropriate diversion and intervention programs to support defendants in the criminal justice system to address the underlying causes of offending, including the permanent establishment of Murri Court and continuation of the Drug and Alcohol Court and Court Link programs
- effectively supporting the transition of 17 year olds from the adult to the children's court jurisdiction
- creating new laws to protect Queenslanders against non-consensual sharing of intimate images, including sending or threatening to send intimate material without consent
- enhancing service delivery and access to justice services for vulnerable and disadvantaged Queenslanders such as victims of crime, adults with impaired capacity, children in need of protection, people with disability, and people over-represented in the justice system
- implementing priority recommendations made by the QFCC regarding Blue Card Services and the Government election commitment for the 'No Card, No Start' application process
- ensuring the judicial protocol represents the best process for judicial appointments
- developing a problem gambling framework based on a public health approach which incorporates primary, secondary and tertiary interventions
- undertaking work to reinstate the statutory 'class B' warranty, in order to better protect consumers who buy older, used motor vehicles from a motor dealer and continue to advocate for national laws to protect new car buyers and purchasers of 'lemon' vehicles
- consulting with the Legal Services Commissioner on whether consumers of legal services would benefit from an investigation of the impacts on the justice system of lay representatives appearing in legal matters, including the risks to consumers and delays to judicial processes
- supporting the CCC's jurisdiction in addressing corrupt activity within the public sector.⁴

Some of the 2018-19 service area highlights for DJAG include:

Justice

- reviewing the *Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 2003*, including the specific consideration of amendments to better recognise sex and gender diverse Queenslanders and same sex families
- responding to justice issues arising from the *Interim Report of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse*
- the staged rollout of Specialist Domestic and Family Violence courts, including the expansion of the Townsville trial to incorporate both civil protection order proceedings as well as criminal domestic and family violence related offences; as well as the provision of secretariat support to the chairperson of the Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board, established to enhance the systemic review of these types of deaths⁵

⁴ 2018-19 Queensland State Budget – Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 4.

⁵ 2018-19 Queensland State Budget – Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 5.

Legal and Prosecution Services

- monitoring and reforming counter-terrorism laws in collaboration with other Government agencies
- ensuring fair, timely and transparent outcomes of all matters referred for prosecution or confiscation proceedings
- efficiently and effectively dealing with child protection matters referred by the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women to ensure fair, timely and consistent outcomes for the protection of children⁶

Liquor, Gaming and Fair Trading

- continuing to deliver key initiatives of the Government's Tackling Alcohol-Fuelled Violence policy
- progressing a revised strategic policy framework for gambling in Queensland to minimise gambling-related harm
- working with consumer protection and fair trading agencies across Australia to deliver outcomes arising from the national review of the Australian Consumer Law
- developing legislation for mandatory continuing professional development for property agents
- assessing and facilitating development approvals for the Star Entertainment Group Limited's masterplan for residential and hotel developments on Broadbeach Island
- implementing a uniform security provider training package in collaboration with commonwealth, state and territory regulatory agencies
- continuing the rollout of additional digital services to make it easier for people to access and use services provided by Liquor, Gaming and Fair Trading and reduce processing times.⁷

3.2 Anti-Discrimination Commission Queensland

The ADCQ is an independent statutory body established by the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1991* (the AD Act). The ADCQ's main services include managing complaints received under the AD Act; delivering training to business, government and the community; assisting communities to develop the capacity to protect human rights; and promoting public discussion on human rights.⁸

The following focus will be taken by the ADCQ in 2018-19 to help meet the objectives of the agency:

- protecting human rights – developing processes to enhance social cohesion with a focus on the Sunshine Coast, Hervey Bay and Townsville; partnering with Multicultural Affairs Queensland to deliver workshops aimed at increasing diversity in media; working with AFL Queensland and Surf Life Saving Queensland to support new citizens to connect with communities through hosted citizenship ceremonies; preparing for the delivery of the Mabo Oration 2019; maintaining a responsive and accessible complaint management service
- promoting human rights – organising, promoting and facilitating Human Rights Month; conducting and participating in public forums; analysing proposed legislation and making submissions in order to draw attention to human rights issues; providing information about human rights using a variety of platforms

⁶ 2018-19 Queensland State Budget – Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 9.

⁷ 2018-19 Queensland State Budget – Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 11.

⁸ 2018-19 Queensland State Budget – Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 35.

- understanding human rights – maintaining high quality training and information services
- preparing for the implementation of human rights legislation.⁹

3.3 Crime and Corruption Commission

The CCC is an independent agency established under the *Crime and Corruption Act 2001*. Its key objective is to reduce the incidence of major crime and corruption in Queensland.¹⁰

In 2018-19 the CCC's focus will be to:

- target participants in criminal organisations that are active in illicit markets of highest threat to Queensland communities
- respond to the most serious organised crime threats and advance investigations into unresolved major crime
- pursue corruption involving elected officials, excessive use of force and misuse of confidential information
- collaborate with key stakeholders to implement and monitor a program of reform of the police complaints and discipline system
- continue to improve organisational performance through the development of its data analytics capability, the implementation of an integrated case management system, and by focusing on its workforce through targeted leadership development programs, workforce mobility, mentoring and talent management.¹¹

In 2018-19, the CCC has additional funding as follows:

- \$7.4 million over four years from 2018-19 (\$1.9 million per annum ongoing) for additional frontline investigators
- \$16.3 million over four years from 2018-19 (\$3.9 million per annum ongoing) to significantly enhance the processing of digital evidence and intelligence analysis and provide for a contemporary information security platform.¹²

Capital purchases for 2018-19 for the CCC include:

- \$2.6 million to replace computer and other information technology equipment
- \$1.7 million to continue to develop a new Integrated Case Management System
- \$1.3 million to enhance the processing of digital evidence and to provide for a contemporary information security platform
- \$770,000 to replace vehicles.¹³

⁹ 2018-19 Queensland State Budget – Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 35.

¹⁰ 2018-19 Queensland State Budget – Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 43.

¹¹ 2018-19 Queensland State Budget – Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 43.

¹² 2018-19 Queensland State Budget – Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 43.

¹³ Queensland Budget 2018-19 - Capital Statement – Budget Paper No. 3, p 70.

3.4 Electoral Commission of Queensland

The ECQ is an independent statutory authority, established under the *Electoral Act 1992* with functions specified in that Act and in other legislation such as the *Local Government Electoral Act 2011* and the *Referendums Act 1997*. The ECQ is a department for the purposes of the *Financial Accountability Act 2009*.¹⁴

The following table compares the appropriations for the ECQ for 2017-18 and 2018-19.

Appropriations	2017-18 \$'000	2018-19 \$'000
<i>Controlled Items</i>		
departmental services	55,247	48,003
equity adjustment	6,269	3,265
<i>Administered Items</i>	..	..
Vote	61,516	51,268

Source: Appropriation Bill 2018, Schedule 2, p. 13.

Key initiatives for the ECQ in 2018-19 will include:

- delivery of the Election Gateway project which is a replacement of the Strategic Elections Management IT System
- recruitment and training of staff to support implementation of the ECQ's obligations under the *Local Government Electoral (Implementing Stage 1 of Belcarra) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2018*
- continuing to build collaborative relationships with stakeholders in preparation for the State general and local government elections in 2020.¹⁵

3.5 Queensland Family and Child Commission

The QFCC's vision is to work collaboratively to influence change so Queensland is a safe place where children, young people and their families thrive in supportive communities.¹⁶

In 2018-19 the QFCC will, amongst other things:

- continue working on the *Growing Up in Queensland* project by gathering views, stories and opinions of children and young people on the opportunities and challenges they face and what they need from government, business and community leaders
- deliver a program of work in relation to online child safety and child exploitation through the *Out of the Dark* project
- provide education about parental and community responsibilities to keep children More Than Safe, with a focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families

¹⁴ 2018-19 Queensland State Budget – Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 83.

¹⁵ 2018-19 Queensland State Budget – Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 83.

¹⁶ 2018-19 Queensland State Budget – Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 73.

- continue implementing the second Strengthening Our Sector action plan through coordinating streams of activity with sector partners, networks of professionals and service providers
- implement QFCC's actions from *Changing Tracks: An action plan for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families 2017-2019*
- support the Government's national agenda commitments, including the recommendation made by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.¹⁷

3.6 Office of the Information Commissioner

The OIC's role is to assist the achievement of more open, accountable and transparent government.¹⁸

In 2018-19 OIC will support greater openness, accountability and transparency through initiatives to improve right to information and information privacy practices, and managing application and complaint demand, including:

- continuing to provide expert advice about emerging issues regarding proactive release of information and appropriate privacy practices to safeguard personal information
- commenting on proposed amendments to the *Report on the review of the Right to Information Act 2009 and Information Privacy Act 2009*; and ensuring external stakeholders and OIC are well placed to implement changes to legislation through updates to guidance, training, awareness, the OIC case management system and internal procedures
- implementing new strategies developed in 2017-18 for training, communications and engagement and career progression, arising from recommendations of the Strategic Review of OIC
- reporting on audit activities, including the self-assessed electronic audit across Queensland Government agencies, educating and training staff on their privacy obligations, unauthorised access to personal information, maturity of information management of Queensland Government agencies, and follow-up audit of recommendations for the Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service.¹⁹

OIC continues to receive very high demand and more complex external review applications than experienced prior to the introduction of the *Right to Information Act 2009* and the *Information Privacy Act 2009*. Increased funding of almost \$2.5 million over four years and ongoing funding of \$644,000 per annum has been provided from 2018-19 for four permanent external review officers to meet ongoing demand.²⁰

¹⁷ 2018-19 Queensland State Budget – Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 73.

¹⁸ 2018-19 Queensland State Budget – Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 63.

¹⁹ 2018-19 Queensland State Budget – Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 63.

²⁰ 2018-19 Queensland State Budget – Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 63.

3.7 Office of the Queensland Ombudsman

The work of the OQO improves fairness in public administration and, through better decisions by agencies, leads to better services for Queenslanders. The OQO is a department for the purposes of the *Financial Accountability Act 2009*.²¹

The following table compares the appropriations for the OQO for 2017-18 and 2018-19.

Appropriations	2017-18 \$'000	2018-19 \$'000
<i>Controlled Items</i>		
departmental services	8,484	8,757
equity adjustment	..	..
<i>Administered Items</i>	..	..
Vote	8,484	8,757

Source: Appropriation Bill 2018, Schedule 2, p. 14.

The service area highlights for the OQO in 2018-19 are:

- continuing to provide timely assessment and investigation of complaints
- identifying systemic weaknesses in public agency decision-making and recommending improvements to practice
- improving the knowledge and skills of public sector agency officers in decision-making and complaints-handling
- as the oversight agency under the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2010*, continuing to improve public sector capability in identifying and managing public interest disclosures, through enhanced monitoring and the further development of education and information resources
- supporting individuals to make effective complaints by providing greater access to complaint management information and services.²²

3.8 The Public Trustee of Queensland

The Public Trustee operates as a corporation sole. It is governed by the *Public Trustee Act 1978* and is a department for purposes of the *Financial Accountability Act 2009*. The Public Trustee provides financial, trustee and legal services to the people of Queensland delivered through a network of 16 regional offices.²³

The key priorities for the Public Trustee in 2018-19 include:

- providing ongoing financial management for Queenslanders with impaired financial decision-making capacity
- implementing digital transformation to enhance core business platforms and build strong digital capabilities

²¹ 2018-19 Queensland State Budget – Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 103.

²² 2018-19 Queensland State Budget – Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 104.

²³ 2018-19 Queensland State Budget – Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 117.

- upgrading facilities in regional offices to better service clients
- enhancing frontline service delivery in response to client survey outcomes
- providing services to the philanthropic sector.²⁴

The 2018-19 capital budget for the Public Trustee is \$21.7 million. Program highlights include:

- \$6.7 million to improve buildings and refurbish existing offices throughout the State
- \$1.6 million to fit out offices and invest in information and communication technology network infrastructure
- \$13.3 million investment in digitisation projects and business transformation program of works.²⁵

3.9 Legal Aid Queensland

LAQ provides quality and cost effective frontline legal services to financially disadvantaged Queenslanders. The services include community legal education, information, advice, duty lawyer services, court and tribunal representation, and dispute resolution.²⁶

During 2018-19, LAQ expects to:

- continue to provide quality frontline legal services
- continue to align its services with child protection and youth justice reforms
- develop a strategy to improve services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- develop an accreditation program for youth justice lawyers
- provide legal representation for eligible National Disability Insurance Scheme appeals
- expand its graduate lawyer program
- continue to improve the Brisbane and regional offices' accommodation
- upgrade LAQ's intranet and operating system to Windows 10 to improve service delivery capability.²⁷

LAQ's 2018-19 capital expenditure program is \$3.1 million. LAQ will invest \$2.8 million on major property, plant and equipment projects, including refurbishing the Mount Isa and Brisbane offices. A further \$325,000 will be invested to replace some of LAQ's motor vehicles and minor property, plant and equipment.²⁸

²⁴ 2018-19 Queensland State Budget – Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 117.

²⁵ Queensland Budget 2018-19 - Capital Statement – Budget Paper No. 3, p 69.

²⁶ 2018-19 Queensland State Budget – Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 53.

²⁷ 2018-19 Queensland State Budget – Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney-General, p 53.

²⁸ Queensland Budget 2018-19 - Capital Statement – Budget Paper No. 3, p 70.

3.10 Issues raised at the public hearing – Department of Justice and Attorney-General

The issues raised by the committee during the examination of the area of Justice and Attorney-General included:

- the CCC complaints process and resourcing
- concerns of the CCC in relation to the government owned corporation appointment process
- operation and investigation of serious and organised crime in Queensland
- activities the CCC has undertaken in relation to child exploitation
- the work undertaken by the CCC in relation to serious crimes, drug investigations and boiler room fraud
- funding for organisations who are providing advice on WorkCover cases
- investigations of alleged fraud or serious financial irregularity in the expenses of Cavendish Road State High School
- the timing of the local government bill to dismiss the Ipswich City Council
- the government's changes to the Queensland electoral system to facilitate openness and transparency
- initiatives undertaken by LAQ to support Queenslanders in accessing justice services
- the number of investigations that have been undertaken by the CCC this year in relation to allegations of union corruption
- the funding of the QFCC
- the ECQ's process for planning applications under new legislation and whether written guidance will be issued
- whether there had been an increase in funeral industry complaints made to the Office of Fair Trading in relation to coffin swapping, one cent contracts and backyard embalment and the government's plans for regulation of the funeral industry
- the work being undertaken by the Queensland Law Reform Commission
- how DJAG is supporting the prevention of domestic and family violence in Queensland
- how often the mistaken belief defence is used as a defence in rape and sexual assault proceedings
- the cost of administration and prosecution of offences related to the possession and use of cannabis and other illicit drugs
- the government's tackling alcohol fuelled violence program
- how the Office of Fair Trading is helping protect Queensland consumers
- the number of Queenslanders with pending blue card applications who work with children
- the start date of the 'no card, no start' policy
- the timing for the declaration of the outlaw motor cycle gang Mongrel Mob as an identified organisation
- plans to increase access to justice services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

- the initiatives of the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council in understanding and addressing the drivers of over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Queensland criminal justice system
- action the government is taking to modernise court facilities in Queensland
- action the government is taking to implement the recommendations made by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse
- the timing of the department's tabling of the 2016-17 QFCC annual report
- the impact of the budget cuts to the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation on alcohol related violence
- the government's work to stop trafficking of ice in rural communities
- the number of judicial appointments since the introduction of the new protocol for judicial appointments in July 2016.

4 Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services

The Honourable Mark Ryan MP is the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services. The Minister's portfolio comprises the Queensland Police Service (QPS), the Public Safety Business Agency (PSBA), the Prostitution Licensing Authority (PLA) and Queensland Corrective Services (QCS).

4.1 The Queensland Police Service

The QPS provides services to the Queensland community designed to uphold and administer the law responsibly, fairly and efficiently; preserve peace and good order; protect and support the community; prevent, detect and solve crime; and to bring offenders to justice. This includes:

- protecting personal safety and preventing, detecting and solving offences including homicide, assault, sexual assault and robbery
- protecting property and preventing, detecting and solving offences including unlawful entry, other property damage, motor vehicle theft and other theft
- maintaining public order and safety including during major events and disasters and addressing public space enjoyment, street and nuisance offences, liquor licensing issues and environmental design to reduce crime including alcohol fuelled violence.²⁹

The key priorities for the QPS during 2018-19 include:

- establishing a QPS security and counter-terrorism command with counter-terrorism specialists located across Queensland
- continuing to deliver key initiatives of the government's *Keeping our Community Safe* and *Tackling Alcohol Fuelled Violence* policies
- continuing to support the implementation of the *Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Strategy 2016-2026* and the Government response to the report from the Special Taskforce on Domestic and Family Violence in Queensland
- working with other appropriate agencies to increase the proportion of offenders, particularly young people, diverted from the criminal justice system
- continuing to build an enhanced intelligence, preventative and investigative capability in response to terrorism and unplanned events that impact on safety and security and to target serious and organised crime.³⁰

In 2018-19, the QPS will invest \$20.1 million in capital purchases. These purchases include:

- \$5.5 million for Camera Detected Offence Program equipment
- \$3.9 million for mobile capability and to develop new applications for QPS QLITE mobile tablet devices
- \$10.7 million for other plant and equipment, including to replace operational assets.³¹

²⁹ 2018-19 Queensland State Budget – Service Delivery Statements – Police and Public Safety, p 4.

³⁰ 2018-19 Queensland State Budget – Service Delivery Statements – Police and Public Safety, p 4.

³¹ Queensland Budget 2018-19 - Capital Statement – Budget Paper No. 3, p 113.

The following table compares the appropriations for the QPS for 2017-18 and 2018-19.

Appropriations	2017-18 \$'000	2018-19 \$'000
<i>Controlled Items</i>		
departmental services	1,915,871	1,989,981
equity adjustment	7,932	4,285
<i>Administered Items</i>	..	734
Vote	1,923,803	1,995,000

Source: Appropriation Bill 2018, Schedule 2, p. 16.

4.2 Public Safety Business Agency

The PSBA enhances access to Government services and strengthens Queensland's responsiveness to emergency events through the delivery of corporate and air services, including:

- information and communications technology (ICT), financial, procurement, asset management, human resources and other corporate services to the QPS, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (including Rural Fire Service and the Queensland State Emergency Service) and the Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management
- ICT services to the Queensland Ambulance Service and QCS
- Queensland Government Air services.³²

The PSBA's 2018-19 key highlights include:

- delivering a \$254.1 million capital program, comprising new, replacement or upgraded facilities, vehicles, vessels, aircraft, ICT and other essential equipment to enable frontline public safety services
- developing a long-term public safety strategic communications strategy to attain a comprehensive communications platform suitable for Queensland's long-term requirements
- progressing the Public Safety Agencies ICT Strategy and Roadmap 2018-22 to build and enhance ICT capability across the public safety agencies, including first responder technology, public safety response technology enhancements and ICT Foundations network and technology transformations
- continuing to strengthen public safety agencies' cyber security and resilience through the secure development, support and maintenance of the agency's and its partners' ICT services, applications and infrastructure
- completing a strategic review of the future direction of Queensland Government Air
- delivering new rotary aircraft to ensure Queensland Government Air meets future service needs
- Queensland Government Air transitioning to an Air Operator's Certificate for fixed wing operations
- progressing the Public Safety Business Agency Workforce Strategy 2017-2022 (Focus 2022) to build a capable, agile and engaged workforce
- implementing the agency's Inclusion and Diversity Action Plan.³³

³² 2018-19 Queensland State Budget – Service Delivery Statements – Police and Public Safety, p 36.

³³ 2018-19 Queensland State Budget – Service Delivery Statements – Police and Public Safety, p 37.

In 2018-19, \$123.3 million is provided for QPS facilities, information and communication technology and other essential equipment including:

- \$10.6 million to continue the new Counter-Terrorism and Community Safety Training Centre at Wacol
- \$19.3 million to commence construction of a warehouse facility at Wacol
- \$5.2 million to continue to refurbish heritage buildings at Wacol
- \$11.7 million to complete the replacement police station and district headquarters at Caboolture
- \$3.7 million to continue to upgrade the West End police station
- \$2.4 million to commence construction of a new police facility at Arundel
- \$1.3 million to complete the replacement police station at Kilcoy
- \$724,000 to complete a replacement police station at Howard, co-located with a Rural Fire Service and SES facility and a replacement police station at Bowen
- \$900,000 to continue the planning and design of replacement police stations or alternate police facilities at Beaudesert, Caboolture, Coolum, Mount Morgan, Nambour and Pormpuraaw, the new station at Highfields and to upgrade the stations at Aurukun and Atherton
- \$400,000 to upgrade the Logan Village Neighbourhood Police Beat to service the Yarrabilba community and surrounds
- \$30 million for new and replacement police service vehicles
- \$5.4 million for new and replacement police service vessels
- \$21.2 million for operational, information and communications systems and equipment including the Public Safety Network
- \$9.4 million for minor capital works including Newtown Neighbourhood Police Beat and \$1.2 million for other plant and equipment across the State.³⁴

The following table compares the appropriations for the PSBA for 2017-18 and 2018-19.

Appropriations	2017-18 \$'000	2018-19 \$'000
<i>Controlled Items</i>		
departmental services	317,750	279,896
equity adjustment	63,872	71,634
<i>Administered Items</i>	..	..
Vote	381,622	351,530

Source: Appropriation Bill 2018, Schedule 2, p. 14.

³⁴ Queensland Budget 2018-19 - Capital Statement – Budget Paper No. 3, p 93-4.

4.3 Queensland Corrective Services

QCS's vision is to enhance the safety of Queenslanders through modern, sustainable and evidence-based corrective services to maximise rehabilitation and reduce recidivism. Its strategic objectives are:

- safer correctional environments
- humane management of prisoners and offenders
- partnering and community collaboration
- stopping crime.³⁵

The 2018-19 service area highlights for QCS include continuing to contribute to the government's priorities of safely managing prisoners in custody and offenders in the community by:

- continuing to implement the Sofronoff Review reform package of \$265 million over six years from 2016-17, including:
 - improved end to end case management in the correctional system
 - expanded programs and re-entry services in correctional centres, probation and parole
 - expanded opioid substitution treatment programs
 - enhanced training programs for probation and parole officers
- providing additional funding of \$9.4 million over two years to continue to address demand on the Probation and Parole Service
- implementing short, medium and long-term strategies to address the demand on the correctional system, and improve the safety of corrective services officers by:
 - expanding Capricornia Correctional Centre by continuing work on the committed 164 cells and beds and further expanding the centre by an additional 100 secure cells (up to 148 beds) within the initial funding package of \$200 million allocated in 2016-17; and providing an extra \$41 million over two years to deliver a further 84 cells and beds
 - providing funding of \$10.5 million over two years to upgrade waste water treatment plants and other equipment at correctional centres, and for the conversion of special observation cells
 - expanding probation and parole district offices across Queensland to accommodate additional frontline staff recommended under the Sofronoff Review
 - continuing to install purpose-built bunk beds across Queensland correctional centres
- funding of \$3.9 million over three years to expand the Supreme Court Bail Program
- funding of \$2.9 million in 2018-19 to improve service delivery for prisoners with a disability or mental illness
- providing funding of \$1.8 million over four years (\$416,000 per year ongoing) to support the expansion of the Townsville Specialist Domestic and Family Violence Court, including circuit courts in Mount Isa and Palm Island, to include criminal, domestic and family violence matters
- continuing to support the Aurukun Four Point Plan by providing funding of \$512,000 in 2018-19 for the Adult Prisoner Reintegration Program
- providing funding of \$1.2 million in 2018-19 to continue the supervised community service projects implemented as part of the Government's Tackling Alcohol Fuelled Violence Program.³⁶

³⁵ 2018-19 Queensland State Budget – Service Delivery Statements – Queensland Corrective Services, p 2.

³⁶ 2018-19 Queensland State Budget – Service Delivery Statements – Queensland Corrective Services, p 3-4.

Capital works program highlights for QCS include:

- \$107 million of \$241 million to provide an additional 384 cells at Capricornia Correctional Centre
- \$3.7 million of \$126.9 million for the Borallon Training and Correctional Centre redevelopment
- \$20.5 million of \$76.6 million to continue upgrading the perimeter security at a number of correctional centres as part of Stage 2 of the Perimeter Security Upgrade Program
- \$1.5 million to complete the \$6 million Brisbane Women’s Correctional Centre enhancement project
- \$3.5 million of \$8 million to complete the Woodford Correctional Centre enhancement project
- \$2.5 million to complete various prison infrastructure enhancement projects
- \$18.6 million to acquire other property, plant and equipment.³⁷

The following table compares the appropriations for Queensland Corrective Services for 2017-18³⁸ and 2018-19.

Appropriations	2017-18 \$'000	2018-19 \$'000
<i>Controlled Items</i>		
departmental services	..	921,224
equity adjustment	..	33,821
<i>Administered Items</i>
Vote	..	955,045

Source: Appropriation Bill 2018, Schedule 2, p. 15.

4.4 Prostitution Licensing Authority

The PLA is a licensing and regulatory agency established by the *Prostitution Act 1999*. Due to a machinery of government change on 12 December 2017, the PLA was moved from the portfolio of the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice to that of the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services.

The functions of the PLA include deciding applications for brothel licences and approved manager’s certificates, monitoring the provision of prostitution through licensed brothels, conducting disciplinary inquiries to decide whether there are grounds for taking disciplinary action against brothel licensees and approved managers, and regulating prostitution advertising.³⁹

The number of licensed brothels in Queensland has declined from 27 in 2014-15 to 20 in the 2018-19 period. There are various factors that influence the number of licensed brothels that choose to operate in Queensland including general economic conditions, expected return on investment compared to other business opportunities as well as competition with illegal operators and sole operator sex workers, amongst others. Changes to the size of the sector directly impacts the PLA Budget, as fewer licenced brothels decreases the fee revenue to the PLA.⁴⁰

³⁷ Queensland Budget 2018-19 - Capital Statement – Budget Paper No. 3, p 98.

³⁸ Prior to machinery-of-government changes, appropriations for Queensland Corrective Services came under the Department of Justice and Attorney-General.

³⁹ 2018-19 Queensland State Budget – Service Delivery Statements – Police and Public Safety, p 28.

⁴⁰ 2018-19 Queensland State Budget – Service Delivery Statements – Police and Public Safety, p 27.

In 2018-19 the PLA will continue to:

- scrutinise applicants and brothel operations
- work with other agencies, including the QPS, to keep organised crime and official corruption from infiltrating licensed brothels
- prioritise high levels of health and safety
- regulate brothels to minimise opportunities for exploitation
- engage with stakeholders.⁴¹

4.5 Issues raised at the public hearing – Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services

The issues raised by the committee during the examination of the area of Police and Corrective Services included:

Queensland Police Service

- a comparison of the QPS budget submission and allocated funds
- the number of police officers per 100,000 Queenslanders as at 30 June 2018
- the overall crime rates and reports of rape and attempted rape
- the rate of armed robbery offences in Far North Queensland, Logan and Mackay and the number that were cleared within guidelines
- the timing and results of the last audit of the weapons licensing system
- the implications for persons in possession of a firearm after the 42 day licence period has expired
- the initiatives being undertaken by the QPS to prevent illegal guns and weapons theft
- the results of the QPS Road Policing Command
- the progress and benefits of the QPS initiative to deliver body worn cameras to police officers
- the endorsement of the QPS Crime Drivers Report by the Commissioner
- the number of robbery offences committed by juvenile offenders
- the number of juvenile offenders that were charged with an offence while on bail in the last 12 months
- QPS initiatives being implemented to target the drug ice
- how policing contributed to the success of the Commonwealth Games and how equipment procured for the Commonwealth Games is being utilised
- the rate of incidental engagement of police with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- the process of identifying the Mongrel Mob as a criminal organisation
- the expected benefits for the community of the new security and counterterrorism command
- recent operations involving police helicopters

⁴¹ 2018-19 Queensland State Budget – Service Delivery Statements – Police and Public Safety, p 27.

- the safety issues facing motorcyclists and the QPS's initiatives to reduce the over-representation of motorcyclists in fatal and serious traffic incidents, including through Operation Grenadine
- the decrease in 2018-19 QPS funding as a proportion of total government spending compared to 2017-18

Public Safety Business Agency

- how PSBA capital works funding is prioritised across service areas

Queensland Corrective Services

- the expected prisoner population in 2020
- the impact of overcrowding on providing rehabilitation services to prisoners
- how QCS is increasing rehabilitation services to reduce recidivism
- the initiatives and programs in place to enhance the safety of staff in a corrective services environment
- the steps being taken to reduce prisoner-on-officer assault rates
- the additional 650 bed program for prisoners
- the findings of the last audit of the Princess Alexandra Hospital Secure Unit (PAHSU)
- the capacity of the PAHSU for Queensland's current prison population and its ability to manage the health needs of prisoners
- night staffing of the PAHSU
- the number of cameras currently at the Southern Queensland Correctional Centre and the number expected to be added prior to female inmates transitioning to the facility
- justification for the privatisation of womens' prison services in Queensland and how the government will ensure continuity of all services
- steps being taken to reduce the pressure on Queensland's correctional system
- progress made in the rollout of the 1,000 bunk bed program
- the recent restructure of QCS and its transition to a stand-alone department
- progress of GPS tracking devices for all parolees as recommended in the Sofronoff review
- security measures to prevent prisoner escape at Capricornia Correctional Centre
- management of prisoner behaviour when facilities are at capacity
- planned equipment upgrades to laundry facilities at Wacol

Prostitution Licensing Authority

- planned and current action being taken against illegal prostitution in Queensland.

5 Minister for Fire and Emergency Services

The Honourable Craig Crawford MP is the Minister for Fire and Emergency Services. The portfolio includes responsibility for the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) and the Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management (IGEM).

5.1 Queensland Fire and Emergency Services

QFES is the primary provider of fire and rescue and emergency management programs and services throughout Queensland.⁴² The department encompasses the Fire and Rescue Service, disaster management services, the Rural Fire Service, and the State Emergency Service (SES). QFES enhances community resilience, mitigates risk and contributes to safer and sustainable communities through disaster management, community assistance, response to structure and landscape fires, and rescue across all hazards.⁴³

The key service area highlights for QFES in 2018-19 include work to:

- develop QFES Strategy 2030, to identify a path to improve and modernise the service delivery model to meet emerging priorities and community needs
- implement solutions to support interoperability and co-delivery of services across Queensland
- implement the QFES Volunteerism Strategy, to foster inclusivity and cohesion and remove duplication and barriers
- continue to enhance volunteer operational capability by ensuring alignment with community needs and development of sustainable policies and programs, to support fire and rescue services and disaster management services across the State
- focus on reducing bushfire risk, improving community safety awareness and knowledge in relation to bushfire safety and prevention, and increasing the skills and experience of Rural Fire Service (RFS) volunteers
- augment approaches for recruitment, development and retention of staff and volunteers
- continue the implementation of the Accelerated Rural Fleet Program to provide fit for purpose vehicles consistent with brigade risk profiles to volunteer rural fire brigades in rural and regional areas
- continue to promote: the home fire safety message highlighting the importance of fire escape plans; the new smoke alarm legislation to highlight advantages and requirements; the If It's Flooded Forget It campaign, to highlight the dangers of flooded roads; and the Bushfire Safety campaign, to educate Queenslanders on how to prepare their property and family for bushfire
- continue to provide the Fight Fire Fascination program, which supports parents to educate their children about the dangers of playing with fire and teaches them the necessary skills to prevent harm to property or lives; continue to deliver the Road Attitudes and Action Planning program in high schools, a practical lifesaving road safety awareness program for young drivers, facilitated by operational firefighters.⁴⁴

Capital works highlights for QFES include:

- \$4 million for operational equipment, which may include protective clothing such as: fully encapsulated gas suits and equipment to service them, specialist and field-portable scientific analysis and detection equipment, and compressors for self-contained breathing apparatus
- \$1.5 million for additions and upgrades to information systems

⁴² 2018-19 Queensland State Budget – Service Delivery Statements – Fire and Emergency Services, p 3.

⁴³ 2018-19 Queensland State Budget – Service Delivery Statements – Fire and Emergency Services, p 4.

⁴⁴ 2018-19 Queensland State Budget – Service Delivery Statements – Fire and Emergency Services, p 4.

- \$250,000 for SES on-boarding to the Government Wireless Network in South East Queensland, to support volunteers and local government and enhance an integrated emergency response.⁴⁵

The following table compares the appropriations for Queensland Fire and Emergency Services for 2017-18 and 2018-19.

Appropriations	2017-18 \$'000	2018-19 \$'000
<i>Controlled Items</i>		
departmental services	81,068	97,709
equity adjustment	..	250
<i>Administered Items</i>	..	..
Vote	81,068	97,959

Source: Appropriation Bill 2018, Schedule 2, p. 16.

5.2 Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management

The Office of the IGEM's role is to enable confidence in Queensland's emergency management arrangements. The key objectives of the Office of the IGEM are to:

- provide independent assurance and advice to government, stakeholders and the community to enhance strategic direction, accountability and outcomes in Queensland's emergency management arrangements
- build a culture of collaboration, improvement, excellence and innovation that challenges the emergency management sector to adapt to and explore emerging opportunities
- ensure its workforce is diverse, forward looking, agile and engaged.⁴⁶

2018-19 service area highlights for the Office of the IGEM include:

- continuing to review and assess the effectiveness of disaster management in Queensland with a focus on a risk-based approach to provide independent assurance of the safety of all Queenslanders
- leading the development and implementation of a system-wide lessons management program for Queensland that includes a means of assessing the outcomes of review recommendations
- conducting a capability review of a disaster district, including the district and local disaster management groups
- refreshing the Emergency Management Assurance Framework, including the Standard for Disaster Management in Queensland
- progressing research and collaborative opportunities between local disaster management practitioners and universities
- facilitating knowledge sharing, skills development and collaboration across the sector through a state-wide network of disaster management officers.⁴⁷

⁴⁵ Queensland Budget 2018-19 - Capital Statement – Budget Paper No. 3, p 100.

⁴⁶ 2018-19 Queensland State Budget – Service Delivery Statements – Fire and Emergency Services, p 20.

⁴⁷ 2018-19 Queensland State Budget – Service Delivery Statements – Fire and Emergency Services, p 21.

The following table compares the appropriations for the Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management for 2017-18 and 2018-19.

Appropriations	2017-18 \$'000	2018-19 \$'000
<i>Controlled Items</i>		
departmental services	4,307	4,209
equity adjustment	..	..
<i>Administered Items</i>	..	..
Vote	4,307	4,209

Source: Appropriation Bill 2018, Schedule 2, p. 14.

5.3 Public Safety Business Agency

In 2018-19, \$82.3 million of PSBA's capital program of \$254.1 million is provided for fire and emergency services facilities, urban and rural fire appliances, information and communications systems and equipment including:

- \$4.3 million to commence replacement of the auxiliary fire and rescue stations at El Arish, Esk, Gracemere, Kilkivan, Wooroolin and Yarraman
- \$3.8 million to complete the replacement of the auxiliary fire and rescue stations at Childers, Rathdowney and Richmond and an upgrade at Dirranbandi
- \$2.5 million to complete an upgrade of the permanent fire and rescue stations at Loganlea, Mount Ommaney and West Logan
- \$3 million to commence replacement of the permanent fire and rescue stations at Bracken Ridge and Chandler and a new station at Pimpama
- \$250,000 to commence the upgrade of the rural fire station at Logan Village to service the community of Yarrabilba and surrounds
- \$800,000 to complete an upgrade of the permanent fire and rescue station and communications centre at Rockhampton
- \$442,000 to complete a RFS and SES facility at Howard, co-located with a replacement police station
- \$2.1 million to complete an upgrade of the Horn Island co-located RFS and SES facility
- \$3 million to commence infrastructure works for the south western region headquarters and replacement of the permanent station at Charlton
- \$50,000 to commence a new emergency services facility at Maleny
- \$2.1 million to complete an upgrade of the mixed permanent-auxiliary fire and rescue station at Mount Isa and to commence replacement of the combined area office and the RFS and SES facility at Mount Isa.
- \$2 million to commence the Cairns Fire Communications Centre upgrade and \$500,000 to complete the Charleville area office refurbishment
- \$400,000 to commence the Weipa emergency and disaster centre.
- \$2.5 million for strategic land acquisitions and Rural Operations land purchases
- \$44.3 million for replacement and new urban and rural fire appliances

- \$4.6 million for minor capital works across the State including upgrades of fire and rescue station amenities
- \$5.8 million for operational, information and communications systems and equipment.⁴⁸

5.4 Issues raised at the public hearing – Minister for Fire and Emergency Services

The issues raised by the committee during the examination of the area of Fire and Emergency Services included:

- the Minister’s attendance at the Victorian Urban State Fire Brigades Championships in Bendigo during flood events in Far North Queensland
- assurance of the quality of manufacturing and warranties for smoke alarms
- number of female firefighters in the QFES
- the 2014 Allison review and the culture of QFES
- number of bullying and sexual harassment cases that involved women
- functions of the Disaster Assistance Response Team
- QFES’ ability to meet the contemporary needs of the community
- the next disaster district review conducted by the Office of the IGEM
- the impact of the budget on new and replacement vehicles and equipment for Fire and Rescue services, the RFS and the SES as a result of 2018-19 appropriations
- alternative funding models for coastguard, surf lifesaving, the SES, rural fire and other volunteer emergency services
- number of code 1 medical call-outs where fire and rescue crews were first at the scene
- efficacy of digital radios in SES trucks in rural and remote areas
- opportunities for research and collaboration between local disaster management practitioners and universities during the 2018-19 period
- the department’s actions to develop future responders and the PCYC’s Emergency Services Cadets Program
- how QFES helps prepares communities for storms and cyclones and other areas of fire safety
- how the additional full-time equivalent firefighters and fire communication officers will improve the delivery of services by QFES in the Queensland community
- assurance that the 11 SES group closures will not impact on disaster response
- whether the Minister is supportive of the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission decision concerning the United Firefighters Union of Australia, the Union of Employees Queensland versus Queensland Auxiliary Firefighters Association
- funding review of Queensland’s volunteer marine rescue operations
- the new Rathdowney rural fire station
- the new Longreach fire station
- action being taken to attract volunteers to the SES, auxiliary and rural fire brigades.

⁴⁸ Queensland Budget 2018-19 - Capital Statement – Budget Paper No. 3, p 92-3.

6 Statement of Reservations

Statement of Reservations

Opening:

The 2018/19 Budget is a budget of taxes, debt and unemployment.

After three-and-a-half years, Labor's legacy for Queensland is no less than five new taxes, an \$83 billion debt bomb and the worst unemployment in Australia - at the time the budget was handed down.

This is a budget that shows Labor have given up and have no plan for Queensland, just a plan for more taxes and more debt. These five new taxes will rip \$2.2 billion out of our economy. These five new taxes will hit households and businesses in every corner of this State.

After three-and-a-half years in office, Labor has no economic plan for Queensland. To divert attentions from Labor's lack of an economic plan and failure to deliver its promises, Labor continues to attack the LNP Government, unable to defend to their own record.

Disappointingly, we believe the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee hearings lacked openness and transparency with the Government members using standing orders and their numbers on the committee to run protection for Ministers.

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice

Crime and Corruption Commission

Corruption involving elected officials

It was revealed that the controversial appointment of Mr Mark Algie to the board of Energy Queensland, by the Member for Miller in his capacity as the former Minister for Energy and Water Supply, completely neglected all forms of due diligence and transparency.

Under a Labor government, this seems to be expected when unions are involved.

Mr Algie was appointed by Cabinet only days after his CV was forwarded to then Energy Minister Mark Bailey's account by the Electrical Trades Union in 2016. This clearly demonstrates to Queenslanders that it's the unions that pick the Cabinet appointments, not the Premier and her Ministers.

Alarmingly, Crime and Corruption Commission (CCC) Chairperson, Mr MacSporran admitted that due diligence was carried out *after* the appointment was approved by Cabinet. Mr MacSporran further acknowledged that "...processes to identify and nominate candidates for board appointments of Government Owned Corporations lacks transparency and good governance".

Corruption concerns involving Ipswich City Council

On 15 May 2018, the Member for Kawana sent a letter to the CCC with a complaint regarding a conversation between the Member for Bundamba and the Minister for Local Government. The letter raised concerns about complaints made to the Premier and the administrative committee of the Labor Party about alleged corruption occurring at Ipswich City Council.

Mr MacSporran, confirmed that no action was taken and key witness in that conversation, namely the Member for Bundamba, weren't interviewed as part of the CCC investigation.

Investigations of fraud or misconduct

The CCC also confirmed the allegations of fraud against the Member for Mansfield, who at the time was the Principal of Cavendish Road State High School, was investigated by the Department of Education.

Process of introducing the bill to sack Ipswich City Council

When asked, Mr MacSporran stated that he did not advise the Minister of Local Government to introduce this new local government bill to sack the Ipswich City Council before the Supreme Court had considered its appeal. Most concerning is that the Minister for Local Government seems to have verbalised the CCC Chairperson in his statements on ABC radio on 10 July 2018 that he was “acting on the advice that I have had from the chair of the CCC. The chair of the CCC wants me to take this action”.

Queensland Family and Child Commission

This estimates revealed that the Labor government has cut \$575,000 to the Queensland Family and Child Commission. With child safety issues increasing, it is alarming to learn that the government have cut funding to the QFCC, given its main purpose (as stated in the *Family and Child Commission Act 2014*) is to promote the safety, wellbeing and the best interests of children and young people.

Funeral industry

Families who made complaints to the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) about dodgy funeral practices have been let down by the Palaszczuk Labor Government. The LNP contends that several families who have made complaints to the OFT are not satisfied with the response they have received, and despite Labor being made aware of this at the estimates hearing, they continue to turn a blind eye to funeral industry concerns by arguing that it is already sufficiently regulated.

The intention of the OFT is to undertake compliance operations targeting the funeral services industry to ensure they are complying with all of the legislation that is applicable to them, including Australian Consumer Law (as reiterated by the Attorney-General). However, the response by the OFT received by a family about alleged coffin-swapping did not reference the Australian Consumer Law. Instead, it only made mention to criminal matters and lengthy paragraphs of the burden of proof. It appears that innocent families will continue to be taken advantage of because of Labor’s lack of action on these important issues.

With a more than 250% increase in the number of complaints made to the OFT in the last year, it is obvious that more needs to be done to protect Queenslanders from dodgy funeral operators. The Attorney-General made it clear that increased regulation of the funeral industry is not on the cards.

Blue cards

Queenslanders can expect to wait until approximately 2020 until the ‘No Card No Start’ policy will be implemented. It was confirmed that at the moment, there are 6,470 people who are working with children without an approved blue card in Queensland.

Interestingly, the Attorney-General seemed to favour the need for people to be employed over child safety by expressing that “if you cannot start work until you have that blue card, you have businesses that cannot employ people and you have individuals not being able to take up a job”.

More alarming is that the Attorney-General commented that “the current system could be improved”. If this is the case, which it appears to be, then the safety of children will continue to be at risk until this blue card loophole is closed.

The Attorney-General further revealed that the blue card system was almost solely paper-based. It is no wonder why processing takes so long and major delays of at least 4 months are expected to process applications.

This also seems to be a broken election commitment.

Organised crime

On the day of the estimates hearing, the Attorney-General asked the Governor to declare another organisation, the Mongrel Mob, as an identified organisation – some two months after being advised by the Queensland Police Service (QPS) (notified in May 2018). The QPS have known of the Mongrel Mob’s presence since February 2016, as reported by various media sources.

The LNP has concerns about the timeliness of declaring organised gangs.

The Labor government has revealed its slow process in declaring criminal gangs.

The police have known about the Mongrels since February 2016, and it is only now declared. Under a Labor government, Queenslanders are at risk from organised crime gangs and the drugs they peddle to our kids.

Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services

Queensland Police Service

The primary responsibility of government is to keep Queenslanders safe.

Our homes, our communities, our families and our most vulnerable are at an unprecedented level of risk as lawlessness grows in our state.

The Palaszczuk Labor Government has failed in their duty to this state. By every metric, Labor’s failure risks the safety of Queenslanders.

Labor denied the Police Commissioner’s request for more funding.

Instead, Police Minister Mark Ryan cut the Queensland Police Service budget as a proportion of overall government spending.

In the 2014-15 Budget, under an LNP government, the police budget represented 5.15% of government spending.

In the 2017-18 Budget, the police budget represented 5.06% of all spending, only due to funding specifically designated for Commonwealth Games.

In this year’s budget, Labor cut police spending down to 4.87% of total government expenditure.

Since 2015, the Palaszczuk Labor Government have continued to slash the police share of the Queensland budget.

This year Labor has cut police funding by \$45m from 2017-18 budget compared to the 2018- 19 budget.

Labor has cut the police budget because they don’t see policing as a priority.

In Real terms, there are less cops on the beat than before Minister Ryan became Police Minister.

In 2016, there were 245 police officers for every 100,000 Queenslanders. Last year, police numbers were cut to 242 for every 100,000 Queenslanders.

When the official service statistics are released later this year, the severity of Labor's cuts will be evident.

It's no wonder, with cuts to resources and police numbers, that crime is out of control in Queensland. Every Queenslanders should be alarmed by an average of 40 reports of rape and attempted rape in Queensland per week.

Examples from across the board show that crime is getting worse.

Offences against property are up by four per cent; more houses have been broken into, more cars stolen and more property damaged than ever before.

Offences against the person are up by four per cent, these include including serious violent crimes, sexual offences and homicide.

Car thefts are spiking in a number of regions across the state.

According to the Queensland Police Service's own report, from the first half of 2017 to the second half of 2017, robbery offences increased 17 per cent and armed robbery increased by 24 per cent.

In North Queensland, there has been a major spike in the number of armed robberies. In Townsville alone, armed robbery offences have increased by 126 per cent. The number of armed robbery offences also increased significantly across the North and Far North Queensland regions.

Consideration must be given to the drivers of this increase in crime.

According to the Queensland Police Service's intelligence reports, the key driver of armed robbery and property offences is juveniles.

During Estimates, the Commissioner advised 17% of all offenders are juveniles.

Police intelligence shows an increase in the number of offences committed by juveniles. While the number of offences has increased, the number of juvenile offenders has decreased.

That means two things.

The first being that recidivism is on the rise. Disturbingly, the number of offences being committed by juveniles on bail has increased.

The incompetence of Labor's decision to remove breach of bail as an offence for juveniles, has been laid bare.

More crime is being committed by juvenile offenders who have a blatant disregard for the terms of their bail.

Labor's ideological 'soft on crime' policy for juvenile offenders, is driving up crime and increasing the safety risk to Queenslanders.

Secondly, it has turned Labor's Criminal Justice System into a revolving door, because juvenile offenders are not getting the rehabilitation they need.

Labor's failure to provide the rehabilitative programs our youth offenders need, means more police resources are being allocated to investigate, pursue and detain recidivist juvenile offenders.

This youth justice failure exposes Labor's incompetence and their inability to keep Queensland families and communities safe.

Labor's excuses don't dismiss the fact, that precious police resources are being redirected to cover up Labor's youth justice failure.

Labor's weak anti-gang laws are also putting Queenslanders at risk.

We know over the past year, Labor has failed to combat outlaw criminal gangs and bikies. Under Labor, the Queensland community fears a resurgence in the number of outlaw bikies.

According to current police intelligence, there are approximately 700 patched 1% outlaw bikies in Queensland.

That's 700 people in Queensland, who have a complete disregard for the law and are hell-bent on being outlaw criminal gangs and bikies.

Outlaw criminal gangs profit from misery, peddling ICE and other drugs, intimidating, extorting and indiscriminately killing others.

Outlaw criminal gangs (bikies) pose a constant and ongoing threat to Queensland communities.

Labor's weak laws show their clear lack of understanding for the risk these brutal thugs pose to the safety of Queenslanders.

It is unconscionable for Labor to turn a blind eye to the determination of outlaw criminal gangs to act 'outside the law'.

Before Estimates, it was revealed that 67 outlaw bikies were waiting to appear in court to answer to their crimes; that's approximately 1 in 10 of all bikies in Queensland.

But Labor's clear disregard for their primary duty to keep every Queensland safe, saw 57 of those bikies back out on the street on bail.

Alarmingly, only 10 patched 1% outlaw bikies were held on remand, segregated away from society.

What the Palaszczuk Labor Government doesn't understand, is thugs need to be taken off our streets, in order to keep Queenslanders safe.

Labor appear to be blind to the risk Queenslanders face, with outlaw criminal gang members on the streets.

On a number of occasions, Queensland Police Service opposed bail specifically because of the threat they posed to the community.

Sadly, the incompetence of the Palaszczuk Labor Government and their weak Bail laws put those thugs straight back out onto the street.

Despite Labor weakening criminal laws and shrinking the police budget, the Queensland Police Service continue to do their best to keep Queensland families and communities safe.

Their hard work should be commended.

QUEENSLAND CORRECTIVE SERVICES

The prison system is in crisis, due to the incompetence and mismanagement of the corrective services portfolio by Minister Mark Ryan.

Prison overcrowding in corrective services facilities is the single most important issue in the Corrective Services portfolio.

The Commissioner confirmed it is his main priority.

Because of systematic overcrowding across the state, prisons have become increasingly violent.

Overcrowded prisons breed violence, which leads to more recidivism. Evidence clearly shows that rehabilitation is key to reducing recidivism.

Overcrowded prisons mean more crime on our streets because offenders aren't properly rehabilitated before release.

The Queensland Corrective Services portfolio is severely under resourced, meaning fewer job opportunities, industry opportunities, and reduced access to healthcare and education.

A person cannot be rehabilitated without proper resources.

As the Commissioner advised in his answer to a question taken on notice, Labor won't meet their own overcrowding target in this term of government.

Together Union Secretary Alex Scott also said he has no confidence in Minister Ryan's plans to reduce overcrowding in Queensland prisons.

Minister Ryan said Labor's current plan to address prison overcrowding, will increase the number of prisoner beds by 2000.

But half of those, 1000 places, are expected to be bunk beds.

This plan, does not increase the capacity of the prison system. It merely increases the sleeping capacity of the prison system, by doubling-up existing infrastructure.

Recently, the Commissioner told the media that increasing sleeping capacity is a surrogate solution, which is not sustainable.

Beds alone aren't enough to manage increased prisoner numbers.

Labor's incompetent plan exposes their inability to manage Queensland's prison population and to reduce recidivism.

Prisoners must be properly rehabilitated to reduce recidivism, which means prisons need more job opportunities, industry opportunities, and increased healthcare and educational resources.

Evidence proves overcrowded prisons are violent places.

More and more prisoners and guards are being assaulted in Queensland's overcrowded prison system.

Assaults and serious assaults by prisoners on other prisoners and staff are at alarming levels.

Forcing more and more prisoners into overcrowded communal areas is turning prisons into fight clubs.

Violent prisons increase recidivism and put our communities at risk.

But more importantly, violent prisons cannot deliver the rehabilitation needed to ensure prisoners do not reoffend upon release.

The Princess Alexandra Hospital Secure Unit is a critical part of Queensland Corrective Services.

During Estimates, the Commissioner labelled the unit a 'challenging piece of infrastructure' and confirmed it did not have the capacity to satisfy the healthcare needs of the current prison population.

The Princess Alexandra Hospital Secure Unit has not been upgraded for 20 years.

The Palaszczuk Labor Government have failed to provide funding for critical infrastructure and security upgrades for the unit.

Minister Mark Ryan's incompetence is putting the safety of Queensland Health staff at risk.

Healthcare is a key part of rehabilitation for prisoners.

Recidivism cannot be reduced if the designated Princess Alexandra Hospital Secure Unit is operating beyond capacity.

Minister for Fire and Emergency Services

There were a number of areas of concern that came out of the LNP committee members questioning of the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services Minister.

Questions around the Minister's competence and commitment to undertaking his role in overseeing disaster recovery was highlighted through the Minister's strange decision to travel interstate for the Victorian Urban State Fire Brigades Championships in Bendigo while Far North Queensland communities were flooding in March

The Minister appears to prioritise catching up with old friends from his Victorian Auxiliary firefighting days over the welfare of members of his own community that were being inundated by flooding.

Concerns around the quality and longevity of compulsory photoelectric smoke alarms were also raised, with specific reference to smoke detector advocate Keith Golinski and his concerns that there was the potential that Queensland was facing another 'pink bats' situation with the quality of smoke alarms available to consumers on the market.

The LNP implores the Minister to investigate issues around insect infestation and provide assurances that the photoelectric smoke alarm products on the market are fit-for-purpose and meet community expectations.

It was disappointing to see a 55 per cent reduction in the number of new female firefighters in Queensland in 2017. It is also disappointing that progress appears to be going backwards in attracting more female firefighters to increase their numbers from the very low 6 per cent.

The LNP raised concerns with the culture of sexual harassment and bullying that was publicly highlighted in the 2014 Allison Report have not been satisfactorily addressed and may be acting as a barrier to new female firefighters applying to join the QFES.

It was reassuring to have the Commissioner provide a guarantee that there would be no operational issues between existing analogue and new digital radio network operated by SES crews, even when they are used in areas with varying radio technologies. The LNP will continue to monitor this situation.

The LNP raised concerns with the mass closure of SES groups in the Mackay region, with 7 ceasing operation since 2016. Given the regions propensity for natural disaster events, this should be of grave concern to that local region. The Minister's palming of responsibility to the local Council does nothing to guarantee that community that it has adequate SES services available to them in their time of need.

Closing:

Instead of a plan for the future Labor continues with the politics of the past.

Unlike Labor, the Liberal National Party does have a plan for Queensland. Our plan is designed to make it easier for Queenslanders to get a job and get ahead.

The LNP economic plan lays out five goals and how the LNP would deliver each of them. The LNP plan will:

- Bust congestion
- Provide cheaper electricity
- Ensure better health and education
- Deliver water security
- Guarantee no new taxes

The LNP's Economic Plan outlines what we would do right now and what we plan to do from 2020.

It is the beginning, not the end, of our commitment to Queensland.

Because we want Queenslanders everywhere to have good jobs and great opportunities.

Only the LNP has a plan will get this State moving again and ensure Queensland's best days are ahead of us.



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James Lister MP
Deputy Chair
Member for Southern Downs

10 August 2018



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Jim McDonald MP
Member for Lockyer

10 August 2018