

Annual Report

2017-2018

Report No. 23, 56th Parliament
Committee of the Legislative Assembly
October 2018

Committee of the Legislative Assembly

Chair	Hon Curtis Pitt MP, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Members	Mr Jarrod Bleijie MP, Member for Kawana Mr Don Brown MP, Member for Capalaba [Deputy Premier's nominee] Hon Yvette D'Ath MP, Attorney-General, Minister for Justice and Leader of the House Mr Shane Knuth MP, Member for Hill Mr Tim Mander MP, Deputy Leader of the Opposition Mr Linus Power MP, Member for Logan [Premier's nominee] Mr Pat Weir MP, Member for Condamine [Leader of the Opposition's nominee]
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1 Introduction and background

The Committee of the Legislative Assembly (CLA or the committee) is a statutory committee established under the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001* (POQA).

Section 84 of the POQA provides that the committee's areas of responsibility are as follows:

(a) the ethical conduct of Members;

Note—

However, under section 104C(2), a complaint about a particular member not complying with the code of ethical conduct for members may be considered only by the Assembly or the Ethics Committee.

(b) parliamentary powers, rights and immunities;

(c) standing rules and orders about the conduct of business by, and the practices and procedures of, the Assembly and its committees;

(d) any other matters for which the committee is given responsibility under the standing rules and orders;

(e) any matter referred to the committee by the Speaker.

Section 108 of the POQA requires the chairperson of each parliamentary committee to table in the Legislative Assembly a report about that committee's activities during the year. The annual report must include:

(a) a list of meetings of the committee and the names of members attending or absent from each meeting; and

(b) a summary of issues considered by the committee, including a description of the more significant issues arising from the considerations; and

(c) a statement of the committee's revenue and spending for the year; and

(d) a brief description of responses by Ministers to recommendations of the committee.

Standing Order 135A Role of the Committee of the Legislative Assembly:

The Committee of the Legislative Assembly shall:

(a) monitor and review the business of the Legislative Assembly to aim for the effective and efficient discharge of business;

(b) monitor and review the operation of committees, particularly the referral of Bills to committees, appropriate vary the time for committees to report on Bills or vary the committee responsible for a Bill.

Standing Order 136. Portfolio committee reports on a Bill

(1) A portfolio committee must finally report to the House on a Bill within six calendar months of the Bill being referred to it unless an alternative report date on the Bill has been set by the House or the Committee of the Legislative Assembly in accordance with (2) and (3) below.

(2) The House may by order vary a portfolio committee's report date on a Bill to a period of not less than 6 weeks.

(3) The Committee of the Legislative Assembly may vary the time for a portfolio committee to report on a Bill provided that:

(a) the House has not by order already set the time for report under (2) above or SO 137 below; and

(b) the report date is not less than 6 weeks after the Bill has been referred to the portfolio committee; and

(c) the Committee of the Legislative Assembly reports its decision to the House at the earliest opportunity.

(4) The House or the Committee of the Legislative Assembly may vary the portfolio committee responsible for a Bill (notwithstanding the nomination of the member who introduced the Bill in accordance with SO 129(3)(c)). If the Committee of the Legislative Assembly varies the committee responsible for a Bill it must report such decision to the House at the earliest opportunity.

Standing Order 194B. Consideration of Auditor-General reports by Portfolio Committees

The Committee of the Legislative Assembly shall as soon as practicable after a report of the Auditor-General is tabled in the Assembly refer that report to the relevant portfolio committee(s) for consideration.

This report summarises the committee's activities from 1 July 2016 until 30 June 2017.

2 Summary of issues considered by the committee

The committee tabled the following report during the reporting period:

- Report No. 21: Annual Report 2016-2017

The Committee considered numerous briefings from the Parliamentary Service with respect to its areas of responsibility under the POQA.

The committee considered and recommended amendments to Standing and Sessional Orders, to be considered by the House, including:

- Sessional Orders for the 56th Parliament,
- Standing Order 284 relating to the admission of strangers to the House,
- Standing Order 280(3) to allow a time period of four years from the date a person is referred to in the Legislative Assembly or a committee to lodge a submission for a Citizen's Right of reply with the Speaker.
- Sessional Order 4 whereby any recommendation by the Ethics Committee regarding a Citizen's Right of Reply is considered by the House on the next sitting day after the committee tables its report.
- Standing Orders Chapter 40 Declarations of Interest reviewed but not supported.

The committee also exercises its responsibility under standing orders in setting or varying the time for committees to report on a bill or varying the committee responsible for a bill on 19 occasions and referring 28 Auditor-General reports to committees during the period.

The committee had a number of issues referred to it by the Speaker throughout the year and endorsed recommendations relating to the following issues:

- Closed Captioning of parliamentary broadcast,
- Members Video Extract System,
- Upgrade to the high-rise lifts,
- Installation of the fire sprinkler system in the Old House,
- Electorate Officer position descriptions, and
- Electorate Office Security Review 2017 report.

The committee met with the Queensland Remuneration Tribunal in relation to its 2017 Review of Allowances.

The committee reviewed the Code of Ethical Standards and in June 2018 tabled an updated *Code of Ethics Standards Together with The Guide to the Code of Ethical Standards and Rules Relating to the Conduct of members*.

The committee considered one petition with over 10,000 signatures and resolved that the petition met the criteria to be set down on the Notice Paper for debate.

3 Ministerial responses to committee recommendations

Section 107 of the POQA provides that where a committee recommends the Government or a Minister should take particular action, or not take particular action, about an issue; or a report of the CLA recommends a motion be moved by the Assembly to implement a recommendation of the committee, the Minister responsible is required to provide the Legislative Assembly with a response.

In the case of a report of the CLA recommending a motion be moved by the Assembly to implement a recommendation of the committee, the Premier or the Premier's nominee is to provide a response.

A response tabled in accordance with section 107 must set out any recommendations to be adopted, and the way and time within which they will be carried out, and any recommendations not to be adopted and the reasons for not adopting them.

The POQA requires the Minister to table the response within three months after the report is tabled. If the Minister cannot comply with this requirement, they are required to table an interim response within three months and a final response within six months.

The committee did not table a report containing recommendations requiring a ministerial response under section 107 of the POQA during the reporting period.

4 Committee revenue and expenditure

The committee had no revenue during 2017-2018.

The committee had no specific budget allocation for 2017-2018, however funds were available from the General Committee Office budget. The committee expended \$910 on hospitality during the period.

5 Meeting attendance record

The tables below show the attendance of members at committee meetings during the reporting period:

55th Parliament

Meeting Date	Hon Wellington MP	Hon de Brenni MP	Mrs Frecklington MP	Hon Hinchliffe MP	Mr Knuth MP	Mr Nicholls MP	Mr Power MP	Mr Seeney MP	Ms Farmer MP
08.08.2017	✓	✓	✓	✓	1	2	✓	✓	✓
22.08.2017	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	2	✓	✓	✓
05.09.2017	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	2	✓	✓	✓
10.10.2017	✓	✓	✓	✓	X	2	✓	✓	✓
24.10.2017	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	2	✓	✓	X

Notes:

Mr Power MP represents Premier Palaszczuk as a member of the CLA

Hon de Brenni MP represents Deputy Premier Trad as a member of the CLA

Ms Farmer MP attends CLA meetings by leave of the committee

¹ Mr Katter MP attended as the Crossbench member

² Mr Emerson MP attended as Mr Nicholls alternate on the CLA

56th Parliament

Meeting Date	Hon Pitt MP	Mr Bleijie MP	Mr Brown MP	Hon D'Ath MP	Mr Knuth MP	Mr Mander MP	Mr Power MP	Mr Weir MP
14.02.2018	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	1
15.02.2018	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
08.03.2018	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
22.03.2018	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
03.05.2018	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
17.05.2018	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	2
14.06.2018	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Notes:

¹ Mrs Frecklington MP attended the first meeting and then nominated Mr Weir MP as her alternate for future meetings

² Mr Last MP attended as the Opposition Leader's nominee



Hon Curtis Pitt MP
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Chair

October 2018