



# 2019-20 Budget Estimates

**Report No. 44, 56<sup>th</sup> Parliament**  
**Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee**  
**August 2019**

## **Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee**

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| <b>Chair</b>        | Mr Peter Russo MP, Member for Toohey          |
| <b>Deputy Chair</b> | Mr James Lister MP, Member for Southern Downs |
| <b>Members</b>      | Mr Stephen Andrew MP, Member for Mirani       |
|                     | Mr Jim McDonald MP, Member for Lockyer        |
|                     | Mrs Melissa McMahon MP, Member for Macalister |
|                     | Ms Corinne McMillan MP, Member for Mansfield  |

### **Committee Secretariat**

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| <b>Telephone</b>          | +61 7 3553 6641  |
| <b>Fax</b>                | +61 7 3553 6699  |
| <b>Email</b>              | lacsc@parliament.qld.gov.au  |
| <b>Committee Web Page</b> | <a href="http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/lacsc">www.parliament.qld.gov.au/lacsc</a> |

### **Acknowledgements**

The committee thanks the:

- Attorney-General and Minister for Justice
- Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services
- 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.

## Contents

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <b>Abbreviations</b>  | <b>ii</b> |
| <b>Chair's foreword</b>   | <b>iv</b> |
| <b>1 Introduction</b>   | <b>1</b>  |
| 1.1 Role of the committee   | 1         |
| 1.2 Estimates process   | 1         |
| 1.3 Aim of this report  | 1         |
| 1.4 Participation by other Members of Parliament                  | 2         |
| <b>2 Recommendation</b>   | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>3 Attorney-General and Minister for Justice</b>                | <b>4</b>  |
| 3.1 Department of Justice and Attorney-General                    | 4         |
| 3.1.1 Justice Services  | 5         |
| 3.1.2 Legal and Prosecution Services                              | 5         |
| 3.1.3 Liquor, Gaming and Fair Trading                             | 6         |
| 3.2 Queensland Human Rights Commission                            | 6         |
| 3.3 Crime and Corruption Commission                               | 7         |
| 3.4 Legal Aid Queensland  | 8         |
| 3.5 Office of the Information Commissioner                        | 9         |
| 3.6 Queensland Family and Child Commission                        | 9         |
| 3.7 Electoral Commission of Queensland                            | 10        |
| 3.8 Office of the Queensland Ombudsman                            | 11        |
| 3.9 The Public Trustee  | 12        |
| 3.10 Key issues raised at the public hearing                      | 12        |
| <b>4 Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services</b> | <b>15</b> |
| 4.1 Queensland Police Service                                     | 15        |
| 4.2 Prostitution Licensing Authority                              | 16        |
| 4.3 Public Safety Business Agency                                 | 16        |
| 4.4 Queensland Corrective Services                                | 17        |
| 4.5 Key issues raised at the public hearing                       | 19        |
| <b>5 Minister for Fire and Emergency Services</b>                 | <b>22</b> |
| 5.1 Queensland Fire and Emergency Services                        | 22        |
| 5.2 Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management          | 23        |
| 5.3 Key issues raised at the public hearing                       | 24        |
| <b>6 Statement of Reservation</b>                                 | <b>27</b> |

## Abbreviations

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| AD Act          | <i>Anti-Discrimination Act 1991</i>          |
| CCC             | Crime and Corruption Commission              |
| committee       | Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee |
| DJAG/department | Department of Justice and Attorney-General   |
| ECQ             | Electoral Commission Queensland              |
| HR Act          | <i>Human Rights Act 2019</i>                 |
| ICT             | information and communications technology    |
| IGEM            | Inspector-General Emergency Management       |
| IP              | information privacy                          |
| IT              | information technology                       |
| LAQ             | Legal Aid Queensland                         |
| NDIS            | National Disability Insurance Scheme         |
| OIC             | Office of the Information Commissioner       |
| OQO             | Office of the Queensland Ombudsman           |
| PAHSU           | Princess Alexandra Hospital Secure Unit      |
| PIDs            | Public Interest Disclosures                  |
| PLA             | Prostitution Licensing Authority             |
| PSBA            | Public Safety Business Agency                |
| Public Trustee  | Public Trustee of Queensland                 |
| QCAT            | Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal |
| QCS             | Queensland Corrective Services               |
| QFCC            | Queensland Family and Child Commission       |
| QFES            | Queensland Fire and Emergency Services       |
| QHRC            | Queensland Human Rights Commission           |
| QPS             | Queensland Police Service                    |
| RFS             | Rural Fire Service                           |

---

|     |                             |
|-----|-----------------------------|
| RTI | right to information        |
| SDS | Service Delivery Statements |
| SES | State Emergency Service     |

## Chair's foreword

This report presents a summary of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee's examination of the budget estimates for the 2019-2020 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 the public hearing.

The committee has recommended that the proposed expenditure, as detailed in the Appropriation Bill 2019 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 2019

---

## 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.

The committee also has oversight functions in relation to the Queensland Ombudsman, the Office of the Information Commissioner, the Electoral Commissioner and the Queensland Family and Child Commission.<sup>1</sup>

### 1.2 Estimates process

On 11 June 2019, the Appropriation Bill 2019 and the estimates for the committee's areas of responsibility were referred to the committee for investigation and report.<sup>2</sup>

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 2019, 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 <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/work-of-committees/committees/LACSC/inquiries/current-inquiries/Estimates2019>.

### 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
- additional information provided by witnesses after the hearing.

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

---

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

Answers to the committee's pre-hearing questions on notice; documents tabled during the hearing; answers to questions taken on notice at the hearing; and additional information provided by witnesses after the hearing are included in a volume of additional information tabled with this report.

#### **1.4 Participation by other Members of Parliament**

The Committee gave leave for other Members to participate in the hearing. The following Members participated in the hearing:

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

## 2 Recommendation

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

**Recommendation**

The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee recommends that the proposed expenditure, as detailed in the Appropriation Bill 2019 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/department). 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:

- Queensland Human Rights Commission (QHRC)
- Crime and Corruption Commission (CCC)
- Legal Aid Queensland (LAQ)
- Office of the Information Commissioner (OIC)
- Queensland Family and Child Commission (QFCC)
- Electoral Commission of Queensland (ECQ)
- Office of the Queensland Ombudsman (OQO)
- Public Trustee of Queensland (Public Trustee).<sup>3</sup>

The following table taken from the Appropriation Bill 2019 compares the appropriations for the department for 2018-19 and 2019-20.

|                           | <b>Budget 2018-19</b><br>\$'000 | <b>Vote 2019-20</b><br>\$'000 |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <i>Controlled Items</i>   |                                 |                               |
| departmental services     | 500,663                         | 554,440                       |
| equity adjustment         | (28,959)                        | (30,008)                      |
| <i>Administered Items</i> | 417,090                         | 435,068                       |
| <b>Vote</b>               | <b>888,794</b>                  | <b>959,500</b>                |

Source: Appropriation Bill 2019, Schedule 2, p 10.

#### 3.1 Department of Justice and Attorney-General

Budgeted capital expenditure for DJAG for 2019-20 is \$48.3 million.<sup>4</sup> The Service Delivery Statements (SDS) note that the capital budget highlights for the department include:

- \$3.1 million of \$12 million to complete the upgrade to the Rockhampton courthouse
- \$7 million of \$11 million to complete the upgrade to the Beenleigh courthouse
- \$3.5 million of \$9 million to complete the upgrade to the Townsville courthouse

<sup>3</sup> 2019-20 Queensland State Budget – Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney-General, Electoral Commission of Queensland, Office of the Queensland Ombudsman and the Public Trustee of Queensland, pp 1-2.

<sup>4</sup> Queensland Budget 2019-20 - Capital Statement – Budget Paper No. 3, p 58.

- \$8.3 million of \$9.8 million to implement an online Blue Card application system
- \$11.6 million to continue the ongoing program of minor works in courthouses
- \$8.9 million to expand and upgrade existing audio-visual capacity in the justice system, which includes video conferencing and in-custody court appearances.<sup>5</sup>

### 3.1.1 Justice Services

Some of the 2019-20 highlights identified in the SDS for justice services include:

- responding to justice issues arising from recommendations of the *Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse*
- developing and implementing the Government's response to the QFCC's review of Queensland's Blue Card system
- supporting the delivery of the Government Election Commitment, 'No Card, No Start' to introduce an automated blue card application process to prevent people commencing paid work while a blue card application is pending
- implementing the government election commitment 'Lemon Laws' to widen the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (QCAT) jurisdiction to hear defective vehicle matters up to a value of \$100,000 (previously \$25,000)
- strengthening the coronial system to better support families and provide timely assistance to coroners, through addressing immediate demand pressures, enhancing case management and legal support, and improving contract management processes for government undertakers
- expanding Court Link to Maroochydore, Redcliffe and Caboolture
- in consultation with communities, building a revised blueprint for the operation of Community Justice Groups
- strengthening the service delivery capacity within Court Services Queensland
- continuing to digitise paper services and evaluate new commercial technologies for potential benefits in reducing the impact of increasing demand on justice services
- continuing to deliver domestic and family violence related policy and legislative reforms relevant to the justice portfolio such as the staged rollout of specialist domestic and family violence courts, including expanding the Townsville specialist court to incorporate both civil protection order proceedings as well as criminal domestic and family violence related offences
- 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 permanent establishment of Murri Court and Court Link and the continuation of the Drug and Alcohol Court programs
- increasing the engagement of people with impaired decision-making capacity to receive services under the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), and ensure people using those services receive the critical oversight to protect them from abuse.<sup>6</sup>

### 3.1.2 Legal and Prosecution Services

Some of the 2019-20 highlights identified in the SDS for legal and prosecution services include:

---

<sup>5</sup> Queensland Budget 2019-20 - Capital Statement – Budget Paper No. 3, p 58.

<sup>6</sup> 2019-20 Queensland State Budget – Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney-General, Electoral Commission of Queensland, Office of the Queensland Ombudsman and the Public Trustee of Queensland, p 6.

- continuing to work with other government agencies to monitor and reform counter-terrorism laws
- efficiently and effectively considering matters referred for prosecution or confiscations proceedings ensuring fair, timely and transparent outcomes. Upholding the fundamental principles of justice and *Charter of Victims' Rights* in relation to victims of crime and their families will continue to be a key focus for the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions
- 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 children, only taking action that is warranted in the circumstances
- supporting the CCC's jurisdiction in addressing corrupt activity within the public sector.<sup>7</sup>

### 3.1.3 Liquor, Gaming and Fair Trading

Some of the 2019-20 highlights identified in the SDS for liquor, gaming and fair trading include:

- continuing to deliver key initiatives of the government's *Tackling Alcohol-Fuelled Violence* policy
- continuing to work with the Commonwealth, and other state and territory consumer protection and fair trading agencies to deliver outcomes arising from the national review of the Australian Consumer Law
- implementing the Government's commitment to improve fairness and provide greater rights to Queenslanders buying a vehicle and continuing to advocate for national laws to specifically protect new car buyers, including purchasers of 'lemon' vehicles
- progressing the Government's commitment to implement mandatory continuing training and development requirements for property agents
- participating in multi-agency working groups for the procurement processes for proposed Global Tourism Hub developments to evaluate and facilitate any associated casino development proposals
- continuing the rollout of additional digital services to make it easier for people to access and use our services and reduce processing times
- continuing to support safe night precinct local boards to maintain place-based management solutions to minimise alcohol and drug-related harm
- progressing outcomes of the review of the *Body Corporate and Community Management Act 1997*.<sup>8</sup>

### 3.2 Queensland Human Rights Commission

On 1 July 2019, the *Human Rights Act 2019* (HR Act) came into force and the Anti-Discrimination Commission Queensland became the QHRC with functions under both the HR Act and the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1991* (AD Act).<sup>9</sup>

---

<sup>7</sup> 2019-20 Queensland State Budget – Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney-General, Electoral Commission of Queensland, Office of the Queensland Ombudsman and the Public Trustee of Queensland, p 11.

<sup>8</sup> 2019-20 Queensland State Budget – Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney-General, Electoral Commission of Queensland, Office of the Queensland Ombudsman and the Public Trustee of Queensland, pp 13-14.

<sup>9</sup> 2019-20 Queensland State Budget – Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney-General, Electoral Commission of Queensland, Office of the Queensland Ombudsman and the Public Trustee of Queensland, p 29.

QHRC's strategic vision is of a fair and inclusive Queensland underpinned by a strong human rights culture, social cohesion, diversity and good government decision making.

QHRC's objectives are:

- protecting human rights
- promoting human rights
- understanding human rights.<sup>10</sup>

The SDS state that during 2019-20, the QHRC will focus on:

- finalising implementation of the HR Act and transition to the QHRC
- protecting human rights – maintaining responsive and accessible complaint management services under the AD Act and the HR Act; facilitating individual and systemic outcomes consistent with the purposes of the AD Act and the HR Act and making submissions about proposed legislation; intervening in legal proceedings involving interpretation of the HR Act
- promoting human rights – organising, promoting and facilitating HR Act awareness raising activities; conducting and participating in public forums; and providing information about human rights using a variety of platforms
- understanding human rights – maintaining high quality research, reporting, training, education and information services.<sup>11</sup>

### 3.3 Crime and Corruption Commission

The CCC is an independent agency established under the *Crime and Corruption Act 2001*. The objectives of the CCC are to reduce the incidence of major crime and corruption in Queensland and build organisational capability.

The CCC investigates major crime and corruption, has oversight of both the police and public sector, recovers the proceeds of crime and protects witnesses. Its work includes:

- investigating organised crime, paedophilia, terrorist activity and other serious crime
- receiving, assessing and investigating allegations of corruption
- developing strategies to prevent crime and corruption
- conducting research and undertaking intelligence activities on crime, corruption, policing and other relevant matters.<sup>12</sup>

The SDS note the CCC's 2019-20 strategic areas of focus are:

- illicit markets of high value or high public impact
- crimes involving risk to, or actual loss of, life or serious injury to a person
- crimes against children and vulnerable victims

<sup>10</sup> 2019-20 Queensland State Budget – Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney-General, Electoral Commission of Queensland, Office of the Queensland Ombudsman and the Public Trustee of Queensland, p 29.

<sup>11</sup> 2019-20 Queensland State Budget – Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney-General, Electoral Commission of Queensland, Office of the Queensland Ombudsman and the Public Trustee of Queensland, p 29.

<sup>12</sup> 2019-20 Queensland State Budget – Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney-General, Electoral Commission of Queensland, Office of the Queensland Ombudsman and the Public Trustee of Queensland, p 35.

- corruption involving elected officials, misuse of confidential information and exploitation of public sector resources
- greater emphasis on stakeholder engagement
- enhancement of critical organisational capabilities.<sup>13</sup>

The CCC's 2019-20 capital acquisitions budget is \$4.3 million. Program highlights (Property, Plant and Equipment) for 2019-20 for the CCC include:

- \$1.7 million to replace computer and other information technology (IT) equipment
- \$794,000 to continue to develop a new Integrated Case Management System
- \$700,000 to replace vehicles.<sup>14</sup>

### **3.4 Legal Aid Queensland**

LAQ provides legal assistance to financially disadvantaged people in Queensland. The services of LAQ include community legal education, information, advice, duty lawyer services, dispute resolution services and court and tribunal representation.<sup>15</sup>

As stated in the SDS, during 2019-20, LAQ expects to:

- continue to provide quality front-line legal services
- implement its First Nations Strategic Plan
- continue to improve the availability of legal services for young people who come into contact with the youth justice system
- enhance the Family Advocacy Support Service
- provide legal representation in relation to NDIS reviews
- improve the availability of child protection legal services in rural and regional Queensland
- contribute to the legal assistance services available to residents of Townsville and other flood affected areas of north Queensland
- implement and evaluate a rapid assessment plea pilot
- ensure LAQ's staff accommodation meets public sector standards
- upgrade LAQ's standing operating environment to improve service delivery capability.<sup>16</sup>

LAQ's 2019-20 capital acquisitions budget is \$2.8 million. An investment of \$1.8 million will be made in major property, plant and equipment projects, including the refurbishment of the Mount Isa office and Brisbane leasehold refurbishments. A further \$283,000 will be invested to replace some motor vehicles and \$550,000 will be invested in replacing multifunctional devices.<sup>17</sup>

---

<sup>13</sup> 2019-20 Queensland State Budget – Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney-General, Electoral Commission of Queensland, Office of the Queensland Ombudsman and the Public Trustee of Queensland, p 35.

<sup>14</sup> Queensland Budget 2019-20 - Capital Statement – Budget Paper No. 3, p 59.

<sup>15</sup> 2019-20 Queensland State Budget – Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney-General, Electoral Commission of Queensland, Office of the Queensland Ombudsman and the Public Trustee of Queensland, p 43.

<sup>16</sup> 2019-20 Queensland State Budget – Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney-General, Electoral Commission of Queensland, Office of the Queensland Ombudsman and the Public Trustee of Queensland, p 43.

<sup>17</sup> Queensland Budget 2019-20 - Capital Statement – Budget Paper No. 3, p 59.

### 3.5 Office of the Information Commissioner

The OIC has a statutory role to assist the achievement of more open, accountable and transparent government.<sup>18</sup>

The SDS state that in 2019-20, the OIC will support greater openness, accountability, integrity and ethical and innovative use of information and data through initiatives to improve right to information (RTI) and information privacy (IP) practices, and managing application and complaint demand, including:

- promoting awareness of the important role of RTI in transparent and accountable government, ethical data use and fostering community trust and confidence, particularly during 10th Anniversary celebrations throughout 2019
- ongoing engagement with Queensland Government agency leaders to improve awareness and support critical changes to practices for a strong culture of openness, transparency, privacy and information security safeguards, including the use of privacy impact assessment tools
- engaging with stakeholders to promote greater awareness of the requirements and benefits of RTI and IP and responsible and ethical sharing and use of information
- continuing to provide expert advice about emerging issues regarding the proactive release of information and appropriate privacy, data and information management practices to safeguard personal information
- reporting on compliance reviews of local governments, including a follow up audit, and audits about privacy impact assessment, proactive disclosure and administrative release
- engaging with internal audit functions in government departments to raise awareness of audit tools available on OIC website
- continuing to focus on independent, timely and fair processes for finalisation of external review applications and privacy complaints
- establishing clear arrangements with the Human Rights Commissioner for dealing with IP complaints under the HR Act, and promote awareness with the community and government.<sup>19</sup>

### 3.6 Queensland Family and Child Commission

The role of the QFCC is to promote the safety, wellbeing and best interests of children and young people and to improve the child protection system.<sup>20</sup>

The SDS provide that in 2019-20, the QFCC will:

- progress deeper dives into themes identified in the QFCC's *This place I call home: The views of children and young people on growing up in Queensland* report
- develop a strategic workforce futures strategy for the child and family services sector to guide individual sector organisations workforce recruitment and skills development priorities
- progress *Families are First*, a strengths-based initiative to connect with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to proactively change the conversation and get Queenslanders

<sup>18</sup> 2019-20 Queensland State Budget – Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney-General, Electoral Commission of Queensland, Office of the Queensland Ombudsman and the Public Trustee of Queensland, p 51.

<sup>19</sup> 2019-20 Queensland State Budget – Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney-General, Electoral Commission of Queensland, Office of the Queensland Ombudsman and the Public Trustee of Queensland, p 51.

<sup>20</sup> See *Family and Child Commission Act 2014*, s 9.

talking about the inherent values, beliefs and behaviours that make Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families strong

- commence an evaluation of outcomes achieved by reforms to the Queensland child protection and family support system
- continue to influence the community through established programs addressing internet-facilitated child abuse and harm; promoting and advocating the responsibility of families and communities to protect and care for young Queenslanders; and providing advice and forums on child death and serious harm prevention
- finalise and implement the QFCC *2019-2022 Oversight Strategy* to monitor the Queensland Child and Family Support System
- complete the detailed development and commence implementation of a new technology platform that will support the Queensland child death register.<sup>21</sup>

### 3.7 Electoral Commission of Queensland

The ECQ is an independent statutory authority established under the *Electoral Act 1992* and is responsible for the delivery of State and local government elections and enforcing compliance with electoral funding and disclosure requirements. The ECQ also undertakes periodic redistributions of Queensland's electoral districts through the Queensland Redistribution Commission, and assesses proposals referred by the Minister for Local Government for changes to local government boundaries through the Local Government Change Commission.<sup>22</sup>

The following table taken from the Appropriation Bill 2019 compares the appropriations for the ECQ for 2018-19 and 2019-20.

|                           | <b>Budget 2018-19</b><br>\$'000 | <b>Vote 2019-20</b><br>\$'000 |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <i>Controlled Items</i>   |                                 |                               |
| departmental services     | 48,003                          | 70,231                        |
| equity adjustment         | 3,265                           | 1,809                         |
| <i>Administered Items</i> | --                              | --                            |
| <b>Vote</b>               | <b>51,268</b>                   | <b>72,040</b>                 |

Source: Appropriation Bill 2019, Schedule 2, p 12.

The SDS record ECQ's key initiatives for 2019-20 as including:

- effective and efficient delivery of the 2020 local government quadrennial elections
- continued planning for the delivery of the 2020 State general election
- delivering education programs and undertaking compliance reviews with political parties, candidates, Members of Parliament, councillors and donors to increase awareness of funding and disclosure requirements

<sup>21</sup> 2019-20 Queensland State Budget – Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney-General, Electoral Commission of Queensland, Office of the Queensland Ombudsman and the Public Trustee of Queensland, pp 58-59.

<sup>22</sup> 2019-20 Queensland State Budget – Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney-General, Electoral Commission of Queensland, Office of the Queensland Ombudsman and the Public Trustee of Queensland, p 68.

- delivering the Election Gateway project to replace the Strategic Elections Management IT system
- undertaking reviews of local government external boundaries, divisions, numbers of councillors, names and classification through the Local Government Change Commission
- implementing policy and operational changes resulting from legislative reforms to address the Independent Panel's *Inquiry Report: A review of the conduct of the 2016 local government elections, the referendum and the Toowoomba South by-election* and the CCC's *Operation Belcarra: A blueprint for integrity and addressing corruption risk in local government*.<sup>23</sup>

### 3.8 Office of the Queensland Ombudsman

The primary responsibilities of the OQO are:

- to give people a timely, effective and independent way to have administrative actions of agencies investigated
- to improve the quality of decision-making and administrative practice in government agencies
- oversight of the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2010*.<sup>24</sup>

The following table taken from the Appropriation Bill 2019 compares the appropriations for the OQO for 2018-19 and 2019-20.

|                           | Budget 2018-19<br>\$'000 | Vote 2019-20<br>\$'000 |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| <i>Controlled Items</i>   |                          |                        |
| departmental services     | 8,757                    | 8,935                  |
| equity adjustment         | --                       | --                     |
| <i>Administered Items</i> | --                       | --                     |
| <b>Vote</b>               | <b>8,757</b>             | <b>8,935</b>           |

Source: Appropriation Bill 2019, Schedule 2, p 13.

The key priorities for the OQO in 2019-20, as identified in the SDS, are:

- continuing to provide timely, effective assessment and investigation of complaints
- making recommendations to rectify unjust decisions and poor administration
- enhancing engagement with agencies to improve their understanding of the OQO's assessment and investigation process
- identifying systemic weaknesses in agency practices
- working directly with individual agencies to improve administration
- monitoring, reviewing and reporting on agency management of complaints and Public Interest Disclosures (PIDs)
- improving the knowledge and skills of agency officers in managing complaints and PIDs

<sup>23</sup> 2019-20 Queensland State Budget – Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney-General, Electoral Commission of Queensland, Office of the Queensland Ombudsman and the Public Trustee of Queensland, p 68.

<sup>24</sup> Queensland Ombudsman, 'Our role', <https://www.ombudsman.qld.gov.au/what-we-do/role-of-the-ombudsman/our-role>.

- building greater knowledge in the community about how to make an effective complaint
- improving corporate systems and processes, with a strong focus on client needs
- strengthening OQO's governance frameworks to ensure accountability and performance.<sup>25</sup>

### **3.9 The Public Trustee**

The Public Trustee provides financial, trustee and legal services to Queenslanders.<sup>26</sup>

The SDS note that the Public Trustee's key priorities for 2019-20 are:

- delivering quality frontline services that respond to changing client and community needs including providing ongoing financial management for Queenslanders with impaired financial decision-making capacity
- continuing to provide a range of Community Service Obligations
- further implementing digital transformation to enhance core business platforms and build strong digital capabilities
- developing a Strategic Asset Management Plan to drive further investment in regional office facility upgrades to better serve clients
- reviewing our fees and charges and the investment objectives for the Common Fund
- continuing to provide services to the philanthropic sector.<sup>27</sup>

### **3.10 Key issues raised at the public hearing**

Issues raised by the committee in relation to DJAG, QHRC, CCC, LAQ, OIC, QFCC, ECQ, OQO and the Public Trustee included:

- independence of the CCC
- political interference with the CCC
- reporting by the Chair of the CCC of a phone call from the Deputy Premier
- contact with the CCC by the Deputy Premier
- contact with the Chair of the CCC by Ministers
- information available to the Deputy Premier at the time of the Woolloongabba house purchase
- support of the CCC
- addressing of organised crime by the CCC
- implementation of the new digital workplace by the CCC
- integrity of the electoral system
- tabling of a file note by the Deputy Premier

---

<sup>25</sup> 2019-20 Queensland State Budget – Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney-General, Electoral Commission of Queensland, Office of the Queensland Ombudsman and the Public Trustee of Queensland, p 83.

<sup>26</sup> 2019-20 Queensland State Budget – Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney-General, Electoral Commission of Queensland, Office of the Queensland Ombudsman and the Public Trustee of Queensland, p 93.

<sup>27</sup> 2019-20 Queensland State Budget – Service Delivery Statements – Department of Justice and Attorney-General, Electoral Commission of Queensland, Office of the Queensland Ombudsman and the Public Trustee of Queensland, p 93.

- 
- request for cabinet documents relating to the Deputy Premier's house purchase
  - processes for receiving personal phone calls from persons under assessment or investigation by the CCC
  - funding for community legal centres
  - children detained in watch houses
  - support for the QFCC
  - work of the LAQ for Queenslanders, particularly those in regional Queensland
  - work of the Public Trustee, particularly in regional Queensland
  - specialists to assist CCC in its investigation regarding the Deputy Premier
  - file notes in relation to Ipswich City Council allegations
  - process for multiple referrals of the same matter to the CCC
  - sittings at the Sarina Magistrates Court
  - Deputy Premier's phone as evidence for the CCC
  - complaints to the Public Trustee
  - complaints to the Attorney-General or DJAG about the Public Trustee
  - compensation orders for loss caused by the Public Trustee
  - allegations of money being misappropriated by the Public Trustee
  - public servants subject to disciplinary action
  - interactions between the Attorney-General and the Public Trustee
  - response to the Palaszczuk Government's fifth budget, particularly from legal stakeholders
  - delivery of the key initiatives in the *Tackling Alcohol Fuelled Violence Policy*
  - modernisation of court facilities, particularly in regional areas
  - recommendations by the Public Trustee for legislative change to address shortcomings in the operation of the Public Trustee
  - addressing issues related to the office of the Public Trustee
  - observations of the Public Guardian in relation to watch houses
  - location of bubblers in watch house cells
  - responding to the criminal justice recommendations of the *Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse*
  - operation of court diversionary and intervention programs
  - war on drugs
  - government policy on pokies
  - community appeal of an approval of pokies
  - pokie buyback scheme
  - concerns of the Public Guardian about watch houses
  - prevention of domestic and family violence

- budget allocation for QCAT, particularly in relation to lemon motor vehicles and reforms to the Australian Consumer Law
- extra resources for the Public Guardian in relation to watch houses
- refusal of children to drink from bubblers located on top of toilets in watch houses
- infections as a result of unhygienic water
- warnings by the Public Guardian
- response of government departments to warnings by the Public Guardian
- support for children taken out of watch houses
- work of the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- conviction rate for the offences of choking, strangulation or suffocation in a domestic setting
- popular baby names.<sup>28</sup>

---

<sup>28</sup> Record of proceeding, 26 July 2019, pp 3-38.

## 4 Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services

The Hon 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 Queensland Police Service

The role of the QPS is to provide effective, high-quality and responsive policing services, in collaboration with community, government and non-government partners, to make Queensland safer.<sup>29</sup>

The following table taken from the Appropriation Bill 2019 compares the appropriations for the QPS for 2018-19 and 2019-20.

|   | <b>Budget 2018-19</b><br>\$'000 | <b>Vote 2019-20</b><br>\$'000 |
|---|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <i>Controlled Items</i>                 |                                 |                               |
| departmental services                   | 1,989,981                       | 2,094,143                     |
| equity adjustment                       | 4,285                           | 8,541                         |
| <i>Administered Items</i> <sup>30</sup> | 734                             | 739                           |
| <b>Vote</b>                             | <b>1,995,000</b>                | <b>2,103,423</b>              |

Source: Appropriation Bill 2019, Schedule 2, p 16.

The QPS service areas are 'crime and public order' and 'road safety'.<sup>31</sup> The crime and public order service area objective is to uphold the law by working with the community to stop crime and make Queensland safer.<sup>32</sup> The road safety service area objective is to contribute to stopping crime and making the community safer through road safety relationships, reducing road trauma and evidence-based enforcement.<sup>33</sup>

The SDS note that the service area highlights for crime and public order for 2019-20 include:

- developing strategies to aid decision-makers to prioritise the allocation of policing resources and responses throughout Queensland to effectively respond to the highest harm offences
- ongoing development of legislative, investigative, training and procedural responses in collaboration with other partner agencies to combat various forms of child sex offending
- continuing to deliver key initiatives under the Government's priority to Keep communities safe and *Tackling Alcohol Fuelled Violence* policy

<sup>29</sup> State Budget 2019-20, Service Delivery Statements, Queensland Police Service and Public Safety Business Agency, p 3.

<sup>30</sup> Administered activities are those undertaken by departments on behalf of the government. The QPS administers funds on behalf of the State including weapons licensing fees, fines and forfeitures and proceeds from the sale of unclaimed property: State Budget 2019-20, Service Delivery Statements, Queensland Police Service and Public Safety Business Agency, p 9.

<sup>31</sup> State Budget 2019-20, Service Delivery Statements, Queensland Police Service and Public Safety Business Agency, p 1.

<sup>32</sup> State Budget 2019-20, Service Delivery Statements, Queensland Police Service and Public Safety Business Agency, p 4.

<sup>33</sup> State Budget 2019-20, Service Delivery Statements, Queensland Police Service and Public Safety Business Agency, p 7.

- 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
- establishing the Security and Counter-Terrorism Network as a full-time capability across Queensland to improve frontline counter-terrorism capacity
- continuing to develop and enhance intelligence, preventative, investigative and research capabilities to target serious and organised crime gangs, including outlaw motorcycle gangs
- delivering the QPS *Look to the Stars* bespoke artwork—fostering reconciliation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
- playing a pivotal role supporting youth justice reform initiatives in collaboration with key partner agencies, including providing alternatives to court for minor offenders and supporting community-based intensive supervision for high-risk young people on bail while awaiting trial or sentence.<sup>34</sup>

The 2019-20 service area highlights for road safety identified in the SDS include:

- engaging and educating the public around the role everyone plays in improving road safety
- increasing the number of radars on marked motorcycles
- increasing training for road police officers to enable them to better detect and deter broader criminal activities.<sup>35</sup>

#### **4.2 Prostitution Licensing Authority**

The PLA is a licensing and regulatory agency established by the *Prostitution Act 1999*.<sup>36</sup>

The objective of the PLA is to ensure that the operations of licensed brothels and prostitution advertising are regulated in accordance with statutory requirements and in the community interest.<sup>37</sup>

The SDS advise that there are currently 20 licensed brothels in Queensland, which is the same number as 2017-18.<sup>38</sup>

The service area objective of the PLA, as set out in the SDS, is to ensure that the operations of licensed brothels and prostitution advertising are regulated in accordance with statutory requirements and in the community interest.<sup>39</sup>

#### **4.3 Public Safety Business Agency**

The PSBA provides corporate services to public safety agencies.<sup>40</sup> These services include:

---

<sup>34</sup> State Budget 2019-20, Service Delivery Statements, Queensland Police Service and Public Safety Business Agency, pp 4-5.

<sup>35</sup> State Budget 2019-20, Service Delivery Statements, Queensland Police Service and Public Safety Business Agency, p 7.

<sup>36</sup> State Budget 2019-20, Service Delivery Statements, Queensland Police Service and Public Safety Business Agency, p 21.

<sup>37</sup> State Budget 2019-20, Service Delivery Statements, Queensland Police Service and Public Safety Business Agency, p 21.

<sup>38</sup> State Budget 2019-20, Service Delivery Statements, Queensland Police Service and Public Safety Business Agency, pp 21, 22.

<sup>39</sup> State Budget 2019-20, Service Delivery Statements, Queensland Police Service and Public Safety Business Agency, p 22.

<sup>40</sup> State Budget 2019-20, Service Delivery Statements, Queensland Police Service and Public Safety Business Agency, p 28.

- information and communications technology (ICT), financial, procurement, asset management, human resources and other corporate services to QPS, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (including the 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.<sup>41</sup>

The agency also provides Queensland Government Air services, involving lifesaving medical retrieval, search and rescue, organ retrieval, and community safety and State support aviation services for the Queensland community.<sup>42</sup>

The following table taken from the Appropriation Bill 2019 compares the appropriations for the PSBA for 2018-19 and 2019-20.

|                           | <b>Budget 2018-19</b><br>\$'000 | <b>Vote 2019-20</b><br>\$'000 |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <i>Controlled Items</i>   |                                 |                               |
| departmental services     | 279,896                         | 281,231                       |
| equity adjustment         | 71,634                          | 33,951                        |
| <i>Administered Items</i> | --                              | --                            |
| <b>Vote</b>               | <b>351,530</b>                  | <b>315,182</b>                |

Source: Appropriation Bill 2019, Schedule 2, p 14.

#### 4.4 Queensland Corrective Services

The SDS provide that QCS's service area objective is to provide safe, modern and responsive correctional services to rehabilitate prisoners and offenders and prevent crime, making Queensland safer.<sup>43</sup> Its services are custodial corrections, community corrections and correctional intervention.<sup>44</sup>

The following table taken from the Appropriation Bill 2019 compares the appropriations for the QCS for 2018-19 and 2019-20.

|                           | <b>Budget 2018-19</b><br>\$'000 | <b>Vote 2019-20</b><br>\$'000 |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <i>Controlled Items</i>   |                                 |                               |
| departmental services     | 921,224                         | 973,036                       |
| equity adjustment         | 33,821                          | (9,507)                       |
| <i>Administered Items</i> | --                              | --                            |
| <b>Vote</b>               | <b>955,045</b>                  | <b>963,529</b>                |

Source: Appropriation Bill 2019, Schedule 2, p 15.

<sup>41</sup> State Budget 2019-20, Service Delivery Statements, Queensland Police Service and Public Safety Business Agency, p 29.

<sup>42</sup> State Budget 2019-20, Service Delivery Statements, Queensland Police Service and Public Safety Business Agency, p 29.

<sup>43</sup> State Budget 2019-20, Service Delivery Statements, Queensland Corrective Services, p 3.

<sup>44</sup> State Budget 2019-20, Service Delivery Statements, Queensland Corrective Services, p 3.

The SDS note that in 2019-20, QCS will continue to contribute to the Government's priority of safely managing prisoners in custody and offenders in the community by:

- implementing short, medium and long-term strategies to address the demand on the correctional system, and improve the safety of corrective services officers by:
  - commencing procurement for the construction of Stage 2 of the Southern Queensland Correctional Precinct, with final funding subject to the outcomes of the procurement process
  - providing funding of \$143 million over four years (\$43.7 million per annum ongoing) to commission and operate the expanded Capricornia Correctional Centre
  - continuing to install 2,000 purpose built bunk beds across Queensland correctional centres
  - providing funding of \$22.1 million over three years for Woodford Correctional Centre intercoms, refurbishment of the Princess Alexandra Hospital Secure Unit (PAHSU), the lock replacement program in correctional centres and upgrading the Brisbane Correctional Centre commercial laundry
- providing funding of \$111.4 million over five years from 2018-19 (\$29.6 million per annum ongoing) to transition Queensland's privately-run prisons, Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre and Southern Queensland Correctional Centre, to public operation
- providing funding of \$25.2 million over four years (\$5.4 million per annum ongoing) to continue implementation of Taskforce Flaxton, including strengthening internal oversight capability, improving information security and centralising key corporate functions
- providing funding of \$6.5 million over four years (\$1.6 million per annum ongoing) to enhance the operations of Parole Board Queensland to manage the increasing number and complexity of matters
- 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 rehabilitation programs in correctional centres and probation and parole
  - expanded housing services for parolees including post release accommodation services
  - continued provision of expanded opioid substitution treatment programs
  - enhanced training programs for probation and parole officers
- continuing the successful Aurukun Prisoner Reintegration Program, to support the Aurukun Four Point Plan, by providing funding of \$2.5 million over four years (\$646,000 per annum ongoing)
- continuing delivery of the expanded Supreme Court Bail Program to reduce time on remand for eligible prisoners
- providing funding of \$2.9 million in 2019-20 to continue enhanced service delivery for prisoners with a disability or mental illness
- continuing 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
- providing funding of \$1.2 million in 2019-20 to continue the supervised community service projects implemented as part of the Government's *Tackling Alcohol Fuelled Violence Program*.<sup>45</sup>

---

<sup>45</sup> State Budget 2019-20, Service Delivery Statements, Queensland Corrective Services, pp 3-4.

#### 4.5 Key issues raised at the public hearing

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

##### **Queensland Police Service, Public Safety Business Agency and Prostitution Licensing Authority**

- access by children in watch houses to clean drinking water
- a complaint to the CCC by a gang rape victim
- destruction and loss of evidence
- additional budget for resources
- number of police officers in Queensland for every 100,000 people
- police activity in the Toohey electorate
- resources for frontline staff in the Mansfield electorate and across Queensland
- targeting of serious and organised crime, including outlaw motorcycle gangs
- police numbers, particularly with respect to Cairns, Townsville and the Gold Coast
- redeployment of police officers from Townsville to the Upper Ross facility
- robbery, unlawful use of a motor vehicle, and assault statistics
- amount transferred from the Department of Youth Justice to the QPS for overtime costs for supervising children in watch houses
- total cost for transporting children from watch houses around Queensland to Brisbane
- cost of damage to the youth wings of the Brisbane watch house
- level of support provided to the QPS to keep the community safe
- progress of the building of the new training centre at Wacol
- measures taken by police to reduce the road toll in regional Queensland
- partnership between the QPS and Crime Stoppers
- four-wheel drive vehicles in regional police stations, in particular Sarina and Mount Morgan
- consorting warnings issued
- dealing with organised crime on the Gold Coast
- restricted premises orders
- supply of integrated load-bearing vests
- financial modelling on the costs associated with the decriminalisation of prostitution
- support for community groups such as Neighbourhood Watch Queensland
- resources allocated to the monitoring of reportable offenders
- addressing youth offending in regional areas
- sale of Queensland police housing assets
- budget allocation for the Our People Matter policy
- Our People Matter survey
- support for officers involved in shooting incidents

- preservation of evidence
- new evidence holding facility
- staffing levels at police stations
- community safety during protest activities
- financial support for the Queensland Water Police
- support of community safety in Townsville by QGAir
- overtime budget for QPS in rural regions
- use of forward-looking infra-red cameras in Polair helicopters
- completion of the police hub and police station in Toowoomba
- extension of restricted premises orders
- renewal of a weapons licence
- benefits of the police budget for Queenslanders
- measures to recruit new police
- payment for police presence
- relocation of an absconded client of the Forensic Disability Service
- dropping of charges laid against journalists filming a protest

#### **Queensland Corrective Services**

- assault numbers in private prisons compared with public prisons
- cost of wages for transferring private prisons into public system
- two prisoners in cells designed for one prisoner
- number of staff required for lock-up and unlock
- reducing corruption
- benefits of building new correctional facilities, including at Gatton
- measures being taken to increase custodial capacity in correctional facilities
- challenges in keeping correctional facilities free from contraband
- steps undertaken before the decision to build a new prison
- business case for new prison
- location of the prisoner who wed at Palen Creek in May 2019
- photographs and film of the prisoner's wedding
- rules around cameras in prisons and visitation areas
- availability of alcohol at the prisoner's wedding
- cost of staff and security for the prisoner's wedding
- vetting of guests attending the prisoner's wedding
- prior knowledge of the prisoner's wedding
- food for the prisoner's wedding
- other weddings at the facility

- future weddings
- risk of corruption associated with the wedding
- daily average prisoner population target
- improvements to the PAHSU and to the Brisbane Correctional Centre commercial laundry
- strategies to address demand on the correctional system
- cost of the Capricornia Correctional Centre
- retail access for prisoners
- prisoners' addictions
- possible under-reporting of assaults on prison staff
- preparation for the implementation of the HR Act
- cost of implementation of the HR Act
- managing overtime requests
- initiatives and programs to enhance the safety of Queenslanders
- transfer of Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre and Southern Queensland Correctional Centre to public operations.<sup>46</sup>

---

<sup>46</sup> Queensland Parliament, Record of Proceeding, 26 July 2019, pp 41-84.

## 5 Minister for Fire and Emergency Services

The Honourable Craig Crawford MP is the Minister for Fire and Emergency Services. The Minister's portfolio comprises 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. QFES encompasses the Fire and Rescue Service, disaster management services, the Rural Fire Service (RFS) and the State Emergency Service (SES). QFES also supports other volunteer groups that provide an emergency response.<sup>47</sup>

The following table taken from the Appropriation Bill 2019 compares the appropriations for the QFES for 2018-19 and 2019-20.

|                           | <b>Budget 2018-19</b><br>\$'000 | <b>Vote 2019-20</b><br>\$'000 |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <i>Controlled Items</i>   |                                 |                               |
| departmental services     | 97,709                          | 106,546                       |
| equity adjustment         | 250                             | (10,441)                      |
| <i>Administered Items</i> | --                              | --                            |
| <b>Vote</b>               | <b>97,959</b>                   | <b>96,105</b>                 |

Source: Appropriation Bill 2019, Schedule 2, p 15.

QFES's service area objective is to enhance community safety by minimising the impact of fire, emergency events and disasters on the people, property, environment and economy of Queensland.<sup>48</sup>

The SDS state that the key service area highlights for 2019-20 include:

- implementing Strategy 2030 through the key initiatives of the 2019-23 QFES Strategic Plan to guide the future sustainability and modernisation of QFES's service delivery model to meet emerging priorities and community needs
- implementing solutions to support interoperability and co-delivery of services across Queensland
- continuing to implement the QFES Volunteerism Strategy, to foster inclusivity and cohesion and remove duplication and barriers
- continuing to enhance volunteer operational capability by ensuring alignment with community needs and the development of sustainable policies and programs
- implementing the QFES Stakeholder Engagement Strategy, to ensure a coordinated approach to plan and prepare for, respond to, and recover from disaster and emergency events
- continuing to work in collaboration with local governments across Queensland to operate an effective SES

<sup>47</sup> State Budget 2019-20, Service Delivery Statements, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services and Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management, p 3.

<sup>48</sup> State Budget 2019-20, Service Delivery Statements, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services and Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management, p 4.

- continuing to mature the Queensland Emergency Risk Management Framework at all levels of Queensland's Disaster Management Arrangements
- focusing on natural and socio-natural hazards and risks, improving community understanding of their risks and consequences including risk-based planning requirements and preparation activities
- focusing on reducing bushfire risk, improving community safety awareness and knowledge in relation to bushfire safety and prevention, and increasing the skills and experience of RFS volunteers
- developing and implementing a workforce strategy to ensure the skills and capabilities of staff and volunteers meet the needs of the community
- implementing the QFES Leadership Framework to embed leadership competencies and capabilities at all levels throughout the department
- continuing to implement the combined conduct training program 'Think, Say, Do' for the QFES Workforce (staff and volunteers)
- enabling the on-boarding of the SES to the existing Government Wireless Network in South East Queensland
- continuing implementation of the Accelerated Rural Fire Service Fleet Program to provide fit for purpose vehicles, consistent with brigade risk profiles, to volunteer rural fire brigades in rural and regional areas
- continuing engagement to support the implementation of the changes to smoke alarm requirements
- continuing providing input into and directing QFES activities towards new legislative and regulatory requirements surrounding combustible cladding and achieving safer buildings
- continuing 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
- continuing 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
- continuing 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.<sup>49</sup>

## 5.2 Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management

The objective of the Office of the IGEM is to provide independent assurance and advice that enables confidence in Queensland's emergency management arrangements.<sup>50</sup>

The following table taken from the Appropriation Bill 2019 compares the appropriations for the Office of the IGEM for 2018-19 and 2019-20.

---

<sup>49</sup> State Budget 2019-20, Service Delivery Statements, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services and Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management, pp 4-5.

<sup>50</sup> State Budget 2019-20, Service Delivery Statements, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services and Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management, p 17.

|                           | <b>Budget 2018-19</b><br>\$'000 | <b>Vote 2019-20</b><br>\$'000 |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <i>Controlled Items</i>   |                                 |                               |
| departmental services     | 4,209                           | 4,260                         |
| equity adjustment         | --                              | --                            |
| <i>Administered Items</i> | --                              | --                            |
| <b>Vote</b>               | <b>4,209</b>                    | <b>4,260</b>                  |

Source: Appropriation Bill 2019, Schedule 2, p 13.

The SDS provide that the Office of the IGEM will continue to review and assess the effectiveness of disaster management in Queensland, with key highlights for 2019-20 to include:

- leading the development and implementation of a system-wide lessons management program in Queensland that includes a means of monitoring and assessing the outcomes of review recommendations
- embedding the refreshed Emergency Management Assurance Framework and Standard for Disaster Management in Queensland
- progressing research and collaborative opportunities between universities and disaster management practitioners
- facilitating knowledge sharing across the sector through a statewide network of disaster management officers
- conducting an annual capability review of a disaster district, including the district and local disaster management groups.<sup>51</sup>

### 5.3 Key issues raised at the public hearing

Issues raised by the committee in relation to the QFES, Office of the IGEM and PSBA included:

- correspondence from the IGEM to the Minister regarding recommendation 9 in the 2018 Queensland Bushfires Review
- the government's response to recommendation 9 in the 2018 Queensland Bushfires Review
- management of government land with respect to fire mitigation
- performance measures for Queensland Parks and Wildlife's good neighbour policy
- QFES response to disasters in the last 12 months
- implementation of the review into marine rescue
- the increase in the emergency management levy for craft brewers and distillers
- the number of fires in breweries in the past 12 months
- the amount that will be raised from the levy on breweries and distilleries
- consultation with industry about the levy
- determination of the levy

<sup>51</sup> State Budget 2019-20, Service Delivery Statements, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services and Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management, p 17.

- 
- implementation of the recommendations in the Queensland Audit Office *Report 10: 2014-15 – Bushfire prevention and preparedness*
  - plans for the SES
  - appliances for the RFS
  - extra costs for QFES in upgrading its response to combustible buildings
  - the types of buildings that are combustible
  - safety measures at the Cairns Performing Arts Centre
  - access to Nexus
  - use of Nexus
  - printing of training certificates
  - roll out of Nexus
  - maps, including incorrect property names and PIC numbers not aligning with maps
  - resolution of mapping issues
  - imposition of emergency management levy
  - waiving of emergency management levy
  - rural road markers
  - learnings from Townsville flood disaster in relation to coordination between departments
  - Aboriginal people assisting the rural fire brigade to do backburning
  - aerial appliances
  - investment in capital works in Brisbane and the south-west and the south-east regions
  - decline in SES groups
  - strategies in the Mackay region to cope with natural disasters
  - strategies to address the decline in volunteers
  - council support for the SES
  - definition of CaPE categories 1, 2 and 3
  - complaints within CaPE categories
  - number of hours taken off work due to bullying and harassment actions
  - new fire and rescue service appliances
  - Finch Hatton airstrip
  - emergency management levy in relation to the Rockhampton and Mount Morgan regions
  - recording of days off
  - release of internal report being prepared by PricewaterhouseCoopers
  - delivery of the Longreach fire station
  - staffing at Yeppoon Fire Station

- discussions with the Minister regarding fuel loads.<sup>52</sup>

---

<sup>52</sup> Queensland Parliament, Record of Proceeding, 26 July 2019, pp 90-107.

## 6 Statement of Reservation

### Opening

The Palaszczuk Labor Government's 2019/20 budget was a bad budget for Queensland.

It was a budget of higher taxes, more debt, less jobs and less infrastructure.

Queenslanders can't afford Labor.

When Labor runs out of money, they come after yours.

The budget showed that Labor is actually cutting infrastructure spending at a time when we now have the worst unemployment on mainland Australia.

Annastacia Palaszczuk isn't borrowing to build, Labor are borrowing to cover their wasteful spending.

It was also a budget of new taxes – not announced at the last state election in another major breach of the trust to the people of Queensland.

It was a budget that introduced new taxes ripping another \$1.25 billion from the state's economy, plunged Queensland into than \$90 billion in debt and revealed almost 26000 less jobs than forecast.

This is \$1.25 billion in new taxes on top of the taxes Labor has already inflicted on Queensland since being re-elected.

A total of \$3.5 billion in taxes so far and Annastacia Palaszczuk hasn't ruled out more taxes and tax hikes into the future.

The 2019 estimates hearings were dominated by the Palaszczuk Labor Government's ongoing integrity crisis. In the 30<sup>th</sup> year since the Fitzgerald Inquiry report was published, these latest scandals provide significant questions about the government's openness, transparency, accountability and integrity that have engulfed the leadership of this government.

### Justice and Attorney-General

The Chair of the Crime and Corruption Commission (CCC), Mr Alan MacSporran, when questioned about the Deputy Premier who made a cold call to him just days after the CCC received a complaint about her alleged conduct reported that no other Minister involved in corruption allegations has phoned him on his mobile. The Chair went on to label the move as "unwise" and "unusual".

Further questions of integrity have been raised after the Chair revealed that the Deputy Premier had in fact made three phone calls to his mobile about separate issues, which contradicted the Deputy Premier's comments that she had only phoned him twice.

The Chair made it clear that he would remove himself from the assessment to ensure the independence and integrity of himself and the CCC was maintained.

Given the allegations of incompetency and misconduct made by former and current clients of the Public Trustee, it is not surprising that there have been 1,803 complaints made between 2016-19. These complaints comprise of client complaints, privacy breach complaints, employee complaints and other complaints.

It is also not surprising that a total of seven compensation orders were made against the Public Trustee by the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal and by other Courts between 2016 and 2019. The costs of compensation for errors made since 2016 now totals \$552,680.12. Of this, \$347,447.94 must be paid by the Public Trustee.

After referring to a recent Court of Appeal case which involved a builder who bribed an official of the Public Trustee of Queensland in 2015 for the tender of over \$250,000 of public funds, it was noted that the Public Trustee is not aware of any allegations of misappropriation made against the Public Trustee in the last three years.

When the Public Guardian was finally called to the table to answer questions about children in watch houses, it was confirmed that there were as many as 86 children held in watch houses two months ago. That number had since dropped to 11.

Alarmingly, it was revealed that children had reported to the community visitors that on occasion they had discovered faecal matter in the bubblers that were located directly above the toilet.

With respect to education provided to children in watch houses, the Public Guardian said that she identified that there were no education services at all going into watch houses. In particular, the Public Guardian said:

*“I was advised on 22 February, after I had raised that matter for some months, that a teacher would be going in and spending 15 minutes in cell per day with each of the children except on school holidays”.*

### Police

Crime in spiralling out of control in Queensland under the leadership of the Palaszczuk Labor Government.

The Police Minister Mark Ryan continues to fail in his duty to protect Queenslanders and ensure our Queensland Police Service has the resources it needs to keep our communities safe.

Labor have reduced the number of police per 100,000 to its lowest level in five years. There are 12 less police officers per 100,000 Queenslanders now than there were in 2015, which is equivalent to 610 FTE front line positions. Labor know no bounds when it comes to stretching the thin blue line and putting the safety of Queenslanders at risk.

The Minister has failed in his charter to prioritise the delivery of 535 additional police officers over four years. Labor is well behind their target, with only an additional 131 police officers deployed since Labor took office – less than half the police needed to fulfil this election commitment.

Crime rates are skyrocketing in locations such as Cairns, Townsville and the Gold Coast. The Police Commissioner confirmed six general duties police officers were redeployed from Townsville police station to staff the Upper Ross facility, while robberies in Townsville have increased by 113 per cent since the Palaszczuk Labor Government were elected. This is a direct consequence of the Minister’s failure to deliver on his commitment to provide 535 additional police officers for Queensland.

Law enforcement should be the primary responsibility of any government. Every Queenslanders has the right to feel safe in their home and their community. With crime rates on the rise across the state, it is imperative the number of police officers keeps pace with Queensland’s population growth.

The Minister also has a responsibility to ensure the Queensland Police Service has the budgetary support it needs to keep Queenslanders safe. The Labor Government have consistently underfunded the Queensland Police Service as a proportion of overall government revenue. Last year, Labor cut the police budget by \$44.6 million. The Queensland Police Service then overspent their budget by \$36 million, proving the thin blue line can only be stretched so far.

Labor has a long history of under resourcing the Queensland Police Service. Over the past five years, Labor has only allocated 3.98% of total government expenditure to the Queensland Police Service, which pales in comparison to the LNP’s average of 4.39%. The LNP has always been strongly committed to the Queensland Police Service and to maintaining law and order in Queensland. If Labor was similarly committed and maintained the LNP’s budget trajectory for law and order, it would have delivered the Queensland Police Service an additional \$234 million in funding on average each year for the past five years. Unfortunately, the reality is starkly different.

The detention of children in adult watch houses has put increasing pressure on the budget bottom line, largely attributed to overtime for watch house staff and the fact Queensland taxpayers spent around \$3,700,000 in damages to repair watch houses across the state between 2016/17 and 2018/19. Further to that, the damages bill increased by 21% in a one-year-period from 2016/17. Despite a substantial number of children being held in watch houses since the beginning of 2018, neither the Minister nor Commissioner could confirm how much of the damage was caused by children.

Labor's flawed outlaw motorcycle gang laws, means bikies are no longer being issued consorting notices while the Court of Appeal case concerning the validity of the notices is pending. This means, from 7 March 2019, not one outlaw motorcycle gang member has been issued a consorting notice, and criminal gang members will know they can consort without any consequences. This is a major setback for the Labor government in their attempt to control outlaw motorcycle gang members.

Labor claims there are zero bikie clubhouses operating in Queensland, despite 28 identified bikie organisations declared. It was reported that Labor failed in its attempt to extend a restricted premises order of the Rebels Albion Clubhouse, and then decided to not apply to the court for the other 27 bikie clubhouses. All 28 bikie clubhouses were previously covered under the LNP's laws.

While the Minister claims these 28 clubhouses has since been shut down, it is questionable that Labor has not applied for any new restricted premises orders to apply to new clubhouses.

#### Corrective Services

The Queensland Corrective Services (QCS) Commissioner revealed that prison overcrowding still poses a significant challenge for the Commissioner. It was acknowledged that prison overcrowding increases the risk of corruption in prisons, as highlighted by the Crime and Corruption Commission's Taskforce Flaxton report.

There were concerns raised about how the prisoner-on-staff assault rate amounted to nine assaults in 2018/19, which is much higher than the expected two assaults.

With respect to the commencement of the remainder of the Human Rights Act in January 2020, the Commissioner acknowledged that "the implications of the act loom large" and "that it is going to require a very significant change potentially to legislation or regulation, but it will require changes fundamentally to our service operations and procedures." What those changes are, remains unclear.

#### Fire and Emergency Services

A key frustration from the Opposition was the fact the Inspector-General was not present at the estimates hearing to explain and articulate certain concerning actions he undertook in relation to the Bushfire Report.

The Acting Inspector-General was unable to provide any rationale behind why on the day of the reports release the Inspector-General wrote to the Minister to clarify a recommendation to the report requiring for changes to the vegetation management laws – something this Labor Government is vehemently against.

The refusal to engage and discuss the effectiveness of the management of state-controlled land and its fire mitigation, continues to be a key source of frustration for the LNP.

Excuses continued to be pedalled for Labor's failures to implement any of the recommendations from the 2014 Queensland Audit Office report Follow-up of bushfire prevention and preparedness—Report No. 5: 2018-19. The report which assessed the department's response to preparedness was accepted by government in 2015 but 5 years later there hasn't been a single recommendation that has been actioned.

Issues around where and why the 'Brewery Tax' came from were not answered by the Labor Government, rather there was further confusion in relation to who was responsible. There was conflicting advice on the responsibility regarding industry engagement about the levy increases

and what support would now be on offer to assist craft breweries starring down the barrel of a tenfold increase in levy fees.

It was confirmed that no modelling was completed by either the Department of State Development and Manufacturing or QFES into the levy increase's impact. There was no proof that any fires in breweries had taken place to justify the new category and associated levy increases.

State Development and Manufacturing seemed to be under the opinion that QFES was managing the impact of the tax increase on a 'case by case' basis providing support – but QFES confirmed it has no avenue to provide assistance through the Emergency Management Levy structure.

To make things worse there was no cabinet consideration and the changes had been introduced without consultation through the regulations.

Issues on the management and increased preparedness required for combustible cladding on Queensland buildings were also raised. The Labor Government remains tight lipped on which buildings are non-compliant and how many people live and work in them. This is lacking in transparency as the Opposition believe people deserve to know if they are in a potentially dangerous and combustible building.

It appears the issues with the much-maligned Nexus HR software continue. Training certificates are still not able to be printed and general issues with the software continue to plague QFES's ability to properly and effectively manage its employees and volunteers.

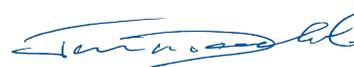
The issue of faulty and incorrect Rural Fire provided maps to local brigades was raised and promptly batted off by the department in a classic 'not our department' moment. The refusal to take ownership of the incorrect maps and commit to providing new maps to brigades was astounding and concerning.

The decline in SES was an issue not properly address by the Minister despite questioning. Between 2015-16 to 2018-19 there were a thousand fewer volunteers across the state and there have been 19 SES group close right across Queensland since 2015, including eight fewer SES groups in the Mackay area. There appears to serious issues with maintain SES members and groups – in particular around the Mackay region.

Once gain the management of complaints with the department was analysed with concerns being raised about QFES not tracking the number of hours and time spent off work due to complaints. Despite the Minister saying in a pre-estimates question on notice, it did appear that the data was being recorded, but was being made public – contrary to the Minister's claims. Given this, the LNP Opposition would expect this data to be provided and made public as requested.



**James Lister MP**  
**Deputy Chair**  
**Member for Southern Downs**



**Jim McDonald**  
**Member for Lockyer**

