



QUEENSLAND PARLIAMENT  
**COMMITTEES**

# **2024-25 Budget Estimates – Appropriation Bill 2024**



**Report No. 18, 57th Parliament**  
**Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee**  
**August 2024**

## **Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee**

**Chair** Mr Chris Whiting MP, Member for Bancroft

**Deputy Chair** Mr Jim McDonald MP, Member for Lockyer

**Members** Mr Don Brown MP, Member for Capalaba  
Mr Michael Hart MP, Member for Burleigh  
Mr Tom Smith MP, Member for Bundaberg  
Mr Robbie Katter MP, Member for Traeger

### **Committee Secretariat**

**Telephone** +61 7 3553 6662

**Email** [hbbmc@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:hbbmc@parliament.qld.gov.au)

**Committee webpage** [www.parliament.qld.gov.au/HBBMC](http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/HBBMC)

## Contents

<b>Chair's foreword</b>	<b>iii</b>
<b>1 Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Role of the committee	1
1.2 Appropriation Bill 2024	1
1.3 Aim of this report	3
1.4 Participation by other Members	3
<b>2 Recommendation</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3 Minister for State Development and Infrastructure, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing</b>	<b>5</b>
3.1 Department of State Development and Infrastructure	5
3.1.1 Key deliverables	6
3.1.2 Budget overview	7
3.1.3 Staffing	8
3.1.4 Budget highlights	8
3.1.5 Capital program	8
3.1.6 Matters raised during the estimates process	9
3.2 Economic Development Queensland	11
3.2.1 Budget overview	11
3.2.2 Staffing	11
3.2.3 Capital program	12
3.2.4 Matters raised during the estimates process	12
3.3 Games Venue and Legacy and Delivery Authority	12
3.3.1 Key deliverables	13
3.3.2 Budget overview	13
3.3.3 Staffing	13
3.3.4 Matters raised during the estimates process	14
3.4 South Bank Corporation	14
3.4.1 Key deliverables	15
3.4.2 Budget overview	15
3.4.3 Staffing	15
3.4.4 Capital program	16
3.4.5 Matters raised during the estimates process	16
<b>4 Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Public Works</b>	<b>17</b>
4.1 Department of Housing, Local Government, Planning and Public Works	17
4.1.1 Key deliverables	18
4.1.2 Budget overview	18
4.1.3 Staffing	19
4.1.4 Budget highlights	20
4.1.5 Capital program	20
4.1.6 Matters raised during the estimates process	21

4.2	QBuild	23
4.2.1	Key deliverables	23
4.2.2	Budget overview	24
4.2.3	Staffing	24
4.2.4	Capital program	24
4.2.5	Matters raised during the estimates process	25
4.3	Queensland Building and Construction Commission	25
4.3.1	Budget overview	25
4.3.2	Staffing	25
4.3.3	Capital program	26
4.3.4	Matters raised during the estimates process	26
4.4	Residential Tenancies Authority	26
4.4.1	Key deliverables	27
4.4.2	Budget overview	27
4.4.3	Staffing	27
4.4.4	Matters raised during the estimates process	27
<b>5</b>	<b>Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water</b>	<b>28</b>
5.1	Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water	28
5.1.1	Key deliverables	29
5.1.2	Budget overview	29
5.1.3	Staffing	30
5.1.4	Budget highlights	31
5.1.5	Capital program	31
5.1.6	Matters raised during the estimates process	32

## Chair's foreword

This report presents a summary of the committee's examination of the budget estimates for the 2024-25 financial year.

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

The committee has recommended that the proposed expenditure, as detailed in the Appropriation Bill 2024 for the committee's areas of responsibility, be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly without amendment.

On behalf of the committee, I thank the Minister for State Development and Infrastructure, Minister for Industrial Relations, and Minister for Racing; the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Public Works; and the Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water 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 hard work and 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 throughout the estimates process.



**Chris Whiting MP**

Chair

August 2024



# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Role of the committee

The Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee (committee) of the 57th Parliament was established by the Queensland Legislative Assembly on 13 February 2024 as a portfolio committee under the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001* and the *Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Assembly*.<sup>1</sup>

The committee's primary areas of responsibility are:

- State Development, Infrastructure, Industrial Relations and Racing
- Housing, Local Government, Planning and Public Works
- Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water

On 14 June 2024, the Appropriation Bill 2024 and the estimates for the committee's area of responsibility were referred to the committee for investigation and report.<sup>2</sup>

The estimates process is one of the key mechanisms to examine government expenditure, performance and effectiveness. By examining and reporting on the proposed expenditures contained in the Appropriation Bill 2024 the committee assists the Parliament in its scrutiny of the Government's proposed expenditure.

## 1.2 Appropriation Bill 2024

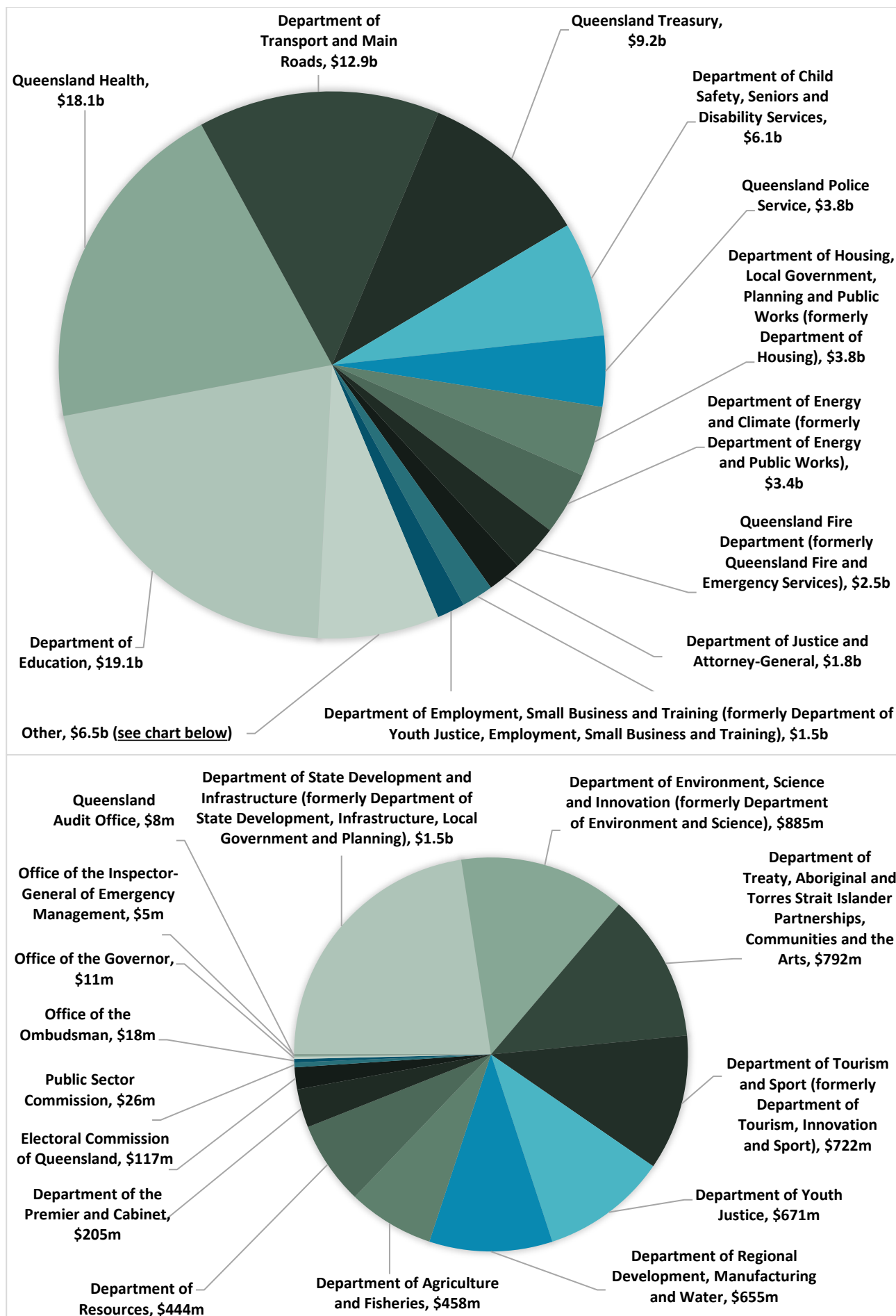
The appropriation for 2024-25 as set out in the Appropriation Bill 2024 is \$90,436,181,000.<sup>3</sup>

The proposed expenditure across Government for 2024-25 is detailed in the charts overleaf.

<sup>1</sup> *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*, s 88 and Standing Order 194.

<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.

<sup>3</sup> Appropriation Bill 2024, section 2.





The committee's examination of the Appropriation Bill 2024 is in relation to the following:

- Department of State Development and Infrastructure (\$1.5 billion)
  - Economic Development Queensland
  - Games Venue and Legacy and Delivery Authority
  - South Bank Corporation
- Department of Housing, Local Government, Planning and Public Works (\$3.8 billion)
  - QBuild
  - Queensland Building and Construction Commission
  - Residential Tenancies Authority
- Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water (\$655m).

On 24 July 2024, the committee conducted a public hearing and took evidence about the proposed expenditure from the Minister for State Development and Infrastructure, Minister for Industrial Relations, and Minister for Racing; the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Public Works; and the Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water, along with witnesses. A copy of the transcript of the committee's hearing is available on the committee's webpage.

Prior to the public hearing, the committee provided each Minister with 20 questions on notice in relation to the estimates. Responses to all the questions were received.

### **1.3 Aim of this report**

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

The committee considered information contained in:

- budget papers
- answers to pre-hearing questions on notice
- evidence taken at the hearing
- additional information given in relation to answers.

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

### **1.4 Participation by other Members**

The following members of the crossbench gave notice of their proposed attendance at the hearing in accordance with the resolution of the House dated 14 June 2024:

- Stephen Andrew MP, Member for Mirani
- Dr Amy MacMahon MP, Member for South Brisbane

The committee resolved to grant leave for other (non-committee) Members of the Legislative Assembly to participate in the hearing.

The following non-committee Members participated in the public hearing sessions:

- Jarrod Bleijie MP, Member for Kawana
- Deb Frecklington MP, Member for Nanango
- Ann Leahy MP, Member for Warrego
- Tim Mander MP, Member for Everton
- Stephen Andrew MP, Member for Mirani
- Michael Berkman MP, Member for Maiwar
- Dr Amy MacMahon MP, Member for South Brisbane

## 2 Recommendation

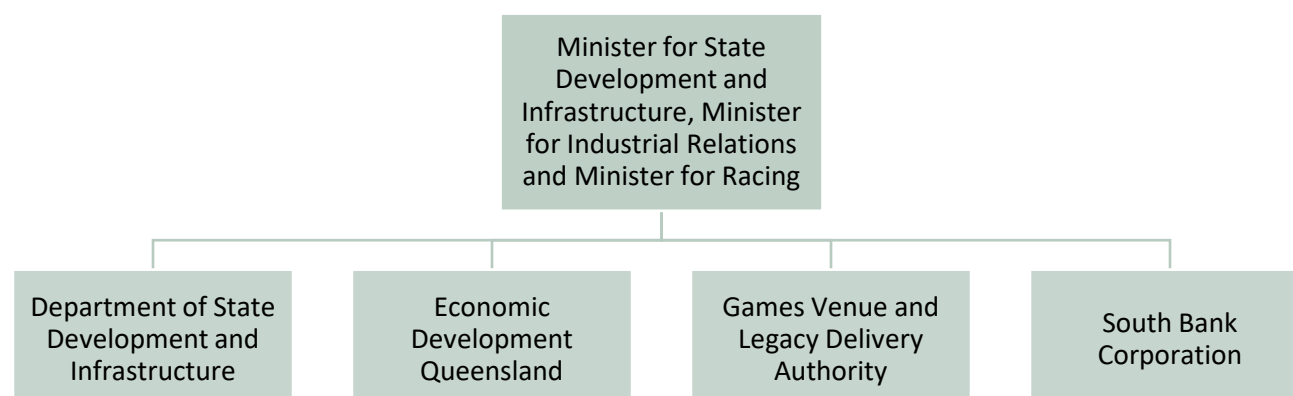
Pursuant to Standing Order 187(1), the committee must state whether the proposed expenditures referred to it are agreed to.

### **Recommendation 1**

The committee recommends that the proposed expenditure, as detailed in the Appropriation Bill 2024 for the committee's areas of responsibility, be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly without amendment.

### 3 Minister for State Development and Infrastructure, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing

The Honourable Grace Grace MP, Minister for State Development and Infrastructure, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing has responsibility for the following agencies, services and statutory entities:



To assist the committee with its consideration of portfolio estimates, the Director-General of the Department was present at the hearing on 24 July 2024. In keeping with the requirements of Schedule 7 of the Standing Orders, the Chief Executive Officers of Economic Development Queensland, the Games Venue and Legacy Delivery Authority and South Bank Corporation, along with the Coordinator-General, the Acting Commissioner for Queensland Racing Integrity Commission, the Chief Executive Officer of Racing Queensland, and the Prosecutor of the Office of the Work Health and Safety Prosecutor were also in attendance.<sup>4</sup>

#### 3.1 Department of State Development and Infrastructure

The Honourable Grace Grace MP, Minister for State Development and Infrastructure, Minister for Industrial Relations, and Minister for Racing is the Minister responsible for the Department of State Development and Infrastructure.

As part of the machinery-of-government changes, effective 18 December 2023, the former Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning was renamed the Department of State Development and Infrastructure (DSDI). As a result, there were changes to the following functions:

- Brisbane 2032 Coordination Office was received from the Department of the Premier and Cabinet
- Brisbane 2032 Legacy was received from the Department of Tourism and Sport
- Brisbane 2032 Team was received from the Department of Environment, Science and Innovation
- Office of Industrial Relations was received from the Department of Education
- Office of Racing was received from the Department of Education
- Local Government was transferred to the Department of Housing, Local Government, Planning and Public Works
- Planning was transferred to the Department of Housing, Local Government, Planning and Public Works
- Regional Economic Futures Fund was transferred to the Department of Energy and Climate.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Standing Orders, Schedule 7, p 96.

<sup>5</sup> Queensland Budget, 2024-25, SDS, DSDI, p 1.

The DSDI has 5 service areas:

- Develop the economy
- Industrial relations
- Infrastructure and regional strategy, policy and planning
- Brisbane 2023 Coordination Office
- Racing.<sup>6</sup>

The objectives of these services areas are to:

- attract and facilitate investment opportunities and industry development to provide enduring economic benefits for Queenslanders
- improve the wellbeing of all Queenslanders by making Queensland safer and supporting fair and productive workplaces
- drive a coordinated and future-focused infrastructure program for Queensland
- lead the coordination of government planning and delivery responsibilities for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, in partnership with state agencies and Games Delivery Partners
- provide policy advice, and timely management of the Racing Infrastructure Fund, to support the racing industry in Queensland.<sup>7</sup>

### **3.1.1 Key deliverables**

The key deliverables of DSDI in 2024-25, as set out in the Service Delivery Statements (SDS) include:

- implementing the Queensland new-industry development strategy (QNIDS) and associated programs that assist industry development with a strong focus on emerging industries, investment attraction and business efficiency improvements
- utilising place-based approaches to grow new and traditional industries through the Regional Transformation Strategies and supporting actions; and delivering Regional Infrastructure Plans through the Regional Growth Framework
- assisting Queensland-based businesses to increase their participation in the supply chains of major projects
- overseeing the opening, including any approvals, of Queen's Wharf Brisbane Integrated Resort Development (Stage 2) including the Neville Bonner Pedestrian Bridge, the public Sky Deck 100 and public green spaces connecting the Brisbane CBD to the river
- leading engagement with the infrastructure industry and cross-jurisdictional agencies on key infrastructure matters including productivity, digital innovation and decarbonisation
- continuing to lead place-based infrastructure planning responses to emergent events such as disasters through the Economic Functional Recovery and Resilience Group and other economic events such as the Mount Isa structural adjustment required to transition regional economies to renewable energy and resource industries
- accelerating assessment and delivery of large-scale and complex infrastructure, agriculture, energy, water and resource projects through the Coordinator-General's statutory powers and whole-of-government coordination and facilitation

---

<sup>6</sup> Queensland Budget, 2024-25, SDS, DSDI, pp 3-8.

<sup>7</sup> Queensland Budget, 2024-25, SDS, DSDI, pp 3-8.

- planning and facilitating industrial growth opportunities in State Development Areas and significant industrial precincts, throughout Queensland's regions, supported by the Coordinator-General
- introducing subordinate legislation on identifying and managing the risks of sexual harassment in the workplace
- introducing amendments to Queensland's electrical safety legislative framework to ensure it continues to be fit for purpose as technologies and work practices change.<sup>8</sup>

### 3.1.2 Budget overview

The Appropriation Bill 2024 proposes an allocation of \$1.46 billion for the DSDI to fund the cost of delivering departmental services, administered items, and equity adjustment in 2024-25.

Appropriations	Budget 2023-24 \$'000	Est. Actual 2023-24 \$'000	Vote 2024-25 \$'000
<i>Controlled Items</i>			
departmental services	754,683	705,176	1,115,081
equity adjustment	87,370	57,580	117,997
<i>Administered Items</i>	2,689,828	2,017,883	230,100
<b>Vote</b>	<b>3,531,881</b>	<b>2,780,639</b>	<b>1,463,178</b>

The vote comprises approximately \$1.2 billion in controlled items – that is expenses that are controlled by departments that relate directly to operational objectives and arise at the discretion and direction of that department; and \$230 million in administered items, which is funding administered by the department, without discretion, on behalf of the government.<sup>9</sup>

Total expenses of the department are estimated to be \$1.3 billion in 2024-25, an increase of \$474.2 million from the 2023-24 estimated actual. The SDS states that this variance is primarily due to the increased funding for the South East Queensland City Deal (\$235m) and Social and Affordable Housing developments led by Economic Development Queensland (\$93.6m).<sup>10</sup>

Administered items decrease by \$1.1 billion in 2024-25 compared to the 2023-24 estimated actual. The SDS states that this is due to machinery of government changes.<sup>11</sup>

Due to significant machinery of government changes it is not possible to directly compare the 2024-25 allocations with previous budgets.

The supplementary appropriation for 2023-24 as set out in the Appropriation Bill 2024 for the department is as follows:<sup>12</sup>

<sup>8</sup> Queensland Budget, 2024-25, SDS, DSDI, pp 1-2.

<sup>9</sup> Appropriation Bill 2024, Schedule 2, p 13.

<sup>10</sup> Queensland Budget, 2024-25, SDS, DSDI, p 11.

<sup>11</sup> Queensland Budget, 2024-25, SDS, DSDI, p 11.

<sup>12</sup> Appropriation Bill 2024, Schedule 3, p 21.

Supplementary appropriation for 2023-24	Amount \$'000
<i>Controlled items</i>	
departmental services	47,361
equity adjustment	1,969
<i>Administered items</i>	48,790
Total amount for department	98,120

### 3.1.3 Staffing

Total Full Time Equivalents (FTEs) as at 30 June 2024 for the department are budgeted to be 1,662 positions, 12 more than the estimated actual in the previous year. 65 of those positions are in the Brisbane 2023 Coordination Office, and will transfer to the Games Venue and Legacy Delivery Authority once established.<sup>13</sup>

DSDI	2023-24 Adjusted Budget	2023-24 Estimated Actual	2024-25 Budget
Total FTEs	1,567	1,650	1,662

### 3.1.4 Budget highlights

As stated in the SDS, the 2024-25 budget highlights for DSDI include:<sup>14</sup>

Continuing the delivery of workplace health and safety, electrical safety and workers' compensation programs and services in line with population and economic growth.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$96.7 million over 5 years and \$23.6 million per annum ongoing</li> </ul>
Enhancing the role of the Office of the Coordinator-General in facilitating key energy projects as part of the <i>Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan</i> .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$7.4 million over 4 years</li> </ul>
The Queen's Wharf Brisbane Integrated Development Project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$3.4 million over 2 years from 2024–25</li> </ul>
Preparing additional Project Validation Reports and establishment costs for the Games Venue and Legacy Delivery Authority, to be transferred to the Authority once established.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$62 million over 4 years from 2024–25 and \$14 million per annum ongoing to 2032–33</li> </ul>
Allocation for minor venues works now in procurement - Chandler Indoor Sports Centre, Brisbane Aquatic Centre, Sunshine Coast Indoor Sport Centre, Sunshine Coast Mountain Bike Centre and Sunshine Coast Stadium, to be transferred to the Authority once established.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$560 million</li> </ul>

### 3.1.5 Capital program

The capital program for the DSDI is \$557.8 million. This includes capital purchases of \$12 million and capital grants of \$545.5 million in 2024-25.<sup>15</sup>

<sup>13</sup> Queensland Budget, 2024-25, SDS, DSDI, p 10.

<sup>14</sup> Queensland Budget, 2024-25, SDS, DSDI, p 2.

<sup>15</sup> Queensland Budget, 2024-25, SDS, DSDI, p 10.

	2023-24 Adjusted Budget \$'000	2023-24 Est. Actual \$'000	2024-25 Budget \$'000
Capital purchases	6,670	26,790	12,272
Capital grants	331,794	341,001	545,543
<b>Total capital outlays</b>	<b>338,464</b>	<b>367,791</b>	<b>557,815</b>

The major components of the capital grants include:

- \$85 million as part of the \$200 million South East Queensland Liveability Fund to support Local Government projects that create liveable, creative, sustainable and healthy communities (jointly funded with the Australian Government)
- \$63.5 million as part of the \$195 million Haughton Pipeline Project Stage 2 for construction of a water pipeline and associated infrastructure from the Burdekin River at Clare, connecting to Stage 1 of the pipeline near Haughton pump station
- \$47 million as part of the \$218.2 million Resources Community Infrastructure Fund to support regional communities by improving economic and social infrastructure across Queensland's resources communities
- \$41.6 million as part of the \$82.2 million Recycling Modernisation Fund to support businesses to improve recycling infrastructure for waste streams impacted by waste export bans (jointly funded with the Australian Government).<sup>16</sup>

### 3.1.6 Matters raised during the estimates process

Matters raised during the committee's examination of the DSDI are listed in the table below:

Matters considered by the committee in relation to the estimates for the DSDI	Pre-hearing questions on notice
Infrastructure program for Queensland	1
Industry Partnerships Program and the delivery of future jobs	5
The ban on the use of engineered stone	6
Support for Queensland public sector workers	7
Support for worker mental health	8
Economic and social contributions of the racing industry	9
Best Practice Review of the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission	10
Expenditure for the Queen's Wharf Brisbane Integrated Development Project	11
WorkCover Queensland's 2024/25 target for the percentage of claims decided within the 20-day statutory timeframe	16
Projects to be funded in 2024/25 from the South East Queensland Liveability Fund	17

<sup>16</sup> Queensland Budget, 2024-25, SDS, DSDI, p 10.

Racing industry funding through the proceeds of the Point of Consumption Tax	18
Costs of hosting the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games	19
Support for country race clubs and expanded travel rebates for jockeys and trainers to attend outback meetings	20
<b>Matters raised during the Estimates 2024 public hearing on 24 July 2024 in relation to the DSDI</b>	<b>Public hearing transcript, page no:</b>
Regional transformation strategy and fees incurred in relation to external consultants	4
Recruitment for the Office of Coordinator-General	6
Pioneer Valley Pumped Hydro Scheme – costs and how funded	7-8, 10-11, 17-18
Establishing domestic sustainable aviation fuel capability in Queensland	9
Copper production and the importance of industry to the Queensland Big Build program of work	14-15
Office of the Coordinator-General and delivery of the CopperString 2032 project	16
Infrastructure productivity and workforce road map and action plan	23
Cost of proposed new Bribie Island bridge	28-29
Support for regional Queensland, especially the electorate of Bundaberg, through the Big Build program of work	29-30
Implementation of the South East Queensland digital twin	30
Variances in the costs of infrastructure projects	31-32
Major infrastructure projects required in the communities of Burketown and Doomadgee	32-33
Perceived imbalances in traditional road funding models for regions	33
CFMEU and allegations in relation to practices on construction sites	33-39, 41-44
Appointments to the Work Health and Safety Board	39
Improving protections for workers dealing with sexual harassment in the workplace	39-40
Protecting workers from the risk of silicosis from engineered stone and other crystalline silica products	40
Workplace health and safety reforms.	41



Support for public service workers and the public sector	41 and 46
Staff of the Office of Industrial Relations or Workplace Health and Safety who are subject to Crime and Corruption Commission investigations	43-44
The modelling undertaken by the government with respect to the impact of inflation on the wages of state school teachers and public healthcare workers	44-45
Update on Queensland's nation-leading Labour Hire Licensing scheme and ongoing national scheme harmonisation efforts	45
Financial position of the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission (QRIC)	47
QRIC reviews into alternative funding models and integrity and welfare services	47-49 and 51-52
QRIC and staffing, funding models and Point-of-consumption tax raised last financial year for the racing industry	49 -50
Upgrades for country/regional racing tracks	51
Use of discarded racing greyhounds for teaching and research purposes	52
Support for racing clubs in Queensland	52-53

## 3.2 Economic Development Queensland

The Minister for State Development and Infrastructure, Minister for Industrial Relations, and Minister for Racing also has responsibility for Economic Development Queensland (EDQ), a commercialised business unit within DSDI with responsibility for facilitating economic development for community purposes under the *Economic Development Act 2012*.<sup>17</sup>

### 3.2.1 Budget overview

The SDS states that in 2024–25, total income for EDQ is estimated to be \$286 million, an increase of \$112.2 million from the 2023-24 estimated actual. The SDS states that this is largely due to an increase in user charges and fees related to budgeted land sales, grants for housing initiatives, and grant funding for the Regional Industrial Land Improvement Program.<sup>18</sup>

Total expenses are forecast to increase to \$290.5 million in 2024-25, an increase of \$90.5 million from the 2023–24 estimated actual. This increase is largely attributed to increased grants and subsidies and increased supplies and services expenditure.<sup>19</sup>

### 3.2.2 Staffing

Full-time Equivalents (FTEs) staffing in the Business and Economic Growth service area has remained consistent at 150 across the 2023-24 Budget, the 2023-24 estimated actual and the 2024-25 Budget.<sup>20</sup>

<sup>17</sup> Queensland Budget, 2024-25, SDS, DSDI, p 21.

<sup>18</sup> Queensland Budget, 2024-25, SDS, DSDI, p 21.

<sup>19</sup> Queensland Budget, 2024-25, SDS, DSDI, p 21.

<sup>20</sup> Queensland Budget, 2024-25, SDS, DSDI, p 23.

### 3.2.3 Capital program

EDQ's capital program includes capital purchases of \$117.8 million and capital grants of \$97.1 million in 2024–25.<sup>21</sup>

	2023-24 Budget \$'000	2023-24 Est. Actual \$'000	2024-25 Budget \$'000
Capital purchases	101,135	110,855	117,809
Capital grants	..	..	97,067
<b>Total capital outlays</b>	<b>101,135</b>	<b>110,855</b>	<b>214,876</b>

Program highlights, as identified in the SDS, include:

- \$97.1 million as part of the \$215.6 million in capital grants for Social and Affordable Housing on developments led by EDQ in consultation with the DHLGPPW
- \$44.3 million as part of the \$410.8 million for the urban renewal development at Northshore Hamilton including the delivery of supporting civil and precinct infrastructure
- \$25.4 million as part of the \$37.3 million for the development of Coolum Eco Industrial Park (Stage 2) to provide industrial land supply and support economic development on the Sunshine Coast.<sup>22</sup>

### 3.2.4 Matters raised during the estimates process

Matters raised during the committee's examination of EDQ are listed below.

Matters considered by the committee in relation to the estimates for EDQ	Pre-hearing questions on notice
Economic Development Queensland's (EDQ's) role in the delivery of housing	4
Matters raised during the Estimates 2024 public hearing on 24 July 2024 in relation to the EDQ	Public hearing transcript, page no:
EDQ's role in the delivery of affordable housing	8-11
EDQ and Griffith University – shared property interests	12-13
EDQ – Northshore Hamilton PDA – Athletes' village for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games	13-14
EDQ and its role in relation to delivery of 'Bluey's World'	15-16
Development rights on land within the Toondah Harbour PDA	17

## 3.3 Games Venue and Legacy and Delivery Authority

The Minister for State Development and Infrastructure, Minister for Industrial Relations, and Minister for Racing also has ministerial responsibility for the budget of the Games Venue and Legacy Delivery Authority, which was established by the *Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Amendment Act 2024*.

The main functions of the Authority are to:

<sup>21</sup> Queensland Budget, 2024-25, SDS, DSDI, p 23.

<sup>22</sup> Queensland Budget, 2024-25, SDS, DSDI, p 23.

- deliver venues in time for the Games and within budget allocations, including managing effects on users of venues during development
- monitor and ensure delivery of villages in time for the Games
- coordinate and integrate the planning and delivery of State, Commonwealth and local government obligations under, or related to, the Olympic Host Contract.<sup>23</sup>

### 3.3.1 Key deliverables

As set out in the SDS, in 2024–25, the Authority will:

- have independent Board directors appointed
- formulate its strategic and operational plans, review its budget requirements and set performance measures regarding its efficient and effective operation
- commence development of a Transport and Mobility Strategy in conjunction with Games Delivery Partners
- develop a Games Coordination Plan, intended to outline how the Authority will deliver on its functions, including the proposed allocation of responsibilities between Games Delivery Partners.
- continue work to deliver venues for the Games
- monitor and ensure the delivery of villages in time for the Games
- agree a memorandum of understanding with Games Delivery Partners.<sup>24</sup>

### 3.3.2 Budget overview

Controlled expenses attributed to the Brisbane 2032 Coordination Office for 2024-25 are \$59.1 million:<sup>25</sup>

Brisbane 2032 Coordination Office	2023-24 Adjusted Budget \$'000	2023-24 Estimated Actual \$'000	2024-25 Budget \$'000
Controlled expenses	28,660	18,330	59,144

Budget and staffing information is reported in the budget summary for the DSDI due to the timing of the establishment of the Authority. The majority of the Brisbane 2032 Coordination Office 2024-25 budget will transfer from the DSDI to the Games Venue and Legacy Delivery Authority upon its establishment.<sup>26</sup>

### 3.3.3 Staffing

Full-time equivalents (FTEs) staffing numbers for the Brisbane 2032 Coordination Office are budgeted to be 65 in 2024-25:<sup>27</sup>

Brisbane 2032 Coordination Office	2023-24 Budget	2023-24 Estimated Actual	2024-25 Budget
Total FTEs	57	57	65

<sup>23</sup> Queensland Budget, 2024-25, SDS, DSDI, p 28.

<sup>24</sup> Queensland Budget, 2024-25, SDS, DSDI, p 28.

<sup>25</sup> Queensland Budget, 2024-25, SDS, DSDI, p 9.

<sup>26</sup> Queensland Budget, 2024-25, SDS, DSDI, p 9.

<sup>27</sup> Queensland Budget, 2024-25, SDS, DSDI, p 10.

**3.3.4 Matters raised during the estimates process**

<b>Matters considered by the committee in relation to the estimates for the Games Venue and Legacy and Delivery Authority</b>	<b>Pre-hearing questions on notice</b>
Benefits of the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games to regional Queensland	2
The independence of the Games Venue and Legacy Delivery Authority and how appointments to the Authority Board will be facilitated	3
Impacts for existing tenants under the Brisbane 2032 Venues Program	12
Elevate 2042: Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games Legacy Strategy	13
Staffing forecast for the Games Venue and Legacy Delivery Authority	14
Establishment date for the Games Venue and Legacy Delivery Authority	15
<b>Matters raised during the Estimates 2024 public hearing on 24 July 2024 in relation to the Games Venue and Legacy and Delivery Authority</b>	<b>Public hearing transcript, page no:</b>
Use of the Queensland Sport and Athletics Centre (QSAC) for athletic events	18-19, 25-27
Cost analysis of the Gabba redevelopment	19-21, 24-27
Planning for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games and the activities of the legacy committee	22-23
Progress of the new Chandler Indoor Sports Centre and other precinct upgrades	24
Establishment of an independent Delivery Authority	27-28
Progress of upgrades to the Sunshine Coast Stadium and the Sunshine Coast indoor sports centre	29

**3.4 South Bank Corporation**

The Minister for State Development and Infrastructure, Minister for Industrial Relations, and Minister for Racing also has ministerial responsibility for the budget of South Bank Corporation (the Corporation).

The Corporation's strategic objectives are to:

- renew and manage the unique South Bank assets
- achieve a balance between commercial and non-commercial activities
- complement rather than duplicate other Brisbane destinations
- provide a diverse range of experiences for locals and visitors
- accommodate events that benefit the whole community
- achieve excellence and innovation in open space management.<sup>28</sup>

<sup>28</sup> Queensland Budget, 2024-25, SDS, DSDI, p 29.

### 3.4.1 Key deliverables

As set out in the SDS, in 2024–25, the Corporation will:

- plan for and advance operational initiatives in line with the master plan for the South Bank Corporation area
- invest in people, processes and systems to improve service levels and organisational capacity and capability across the portfolio of assets and be positioned to embrace future opportunities
- sharpen unique selling propositions and brand awareness to accelerate the attractiveness of South Bank, and Brisbane, to exceed visitor expectations
- enhance relationships with local, national and international visitors, increasing their visitor experience
- continue to work with the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre manager to attract and deliver events across the year and grow the number of international events
- support retail tenants and investigate new revenue streams to support the management and enhancement of South Bank assets
- continue to manage capital and operational maintenance program to ensure assets focus on safety, end of life renewal and replacement
- work with key stakeholders to explore ways to work together, ensure great outcomes for the wider community and understand flood mitigation and construction impacts across the precincts.<sup>29</sup>

### 3.4.2 Budget overview

Total expenses are budgeted to be \$155.8 million in 2024-25, an increase of \$15.9 million from the 2023–24 estimated actual. The SDS states that this increase is attributable to the change in the Corporation's operations due to the reintegration of parkland management into the Corporation.<sup>30</sup>

Total income is budgeted to be \$120.1 million in 2024-25, an increase of \$762,000 from the 2023-24 estimated actual.<sup>31</sup>

### 3.4.3 Staffing

Full-time equivalents (FTEs) staffing numbers for the South Bank Corporation as at 30 June, in respective years, are as follows:<sup>32</sup>

South Bank Corporation	2023-24 Budget	2023-24 Est. Actual	2024-25 Budget
Total FTEs	34	62	82

<sup>29</sup> Queensland Budget, 2024-25, SDS, DSDI, p 29.

<sup>30</sup> Queensland Budget, 2024-25, SDS, DSDI, p 31.

<sup>31</sup> Queensland Budget, 2024-25, SDS, DSDI, p 31.

<sup>32</sup> Queensland Budget, 2024-25, SDS, DSDI, p 30.

### 3.4.4 Capital program

The Corporation's capital program relates to enhancement and replacement of existing assets across the South Bank precinct with a total investment of \$12.7 million budgeted for 2024–25. This includes:

- \$8.3 million for continued enhancements to the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre (BCEC)
- \$4.4 million for South Bank Parklands investment in compliance and safety improvements and increase to services standard of key assets.<sup>33</sup>

The following table shows the capital program for the Corporation for the respective years:<sup>34</sup>

	2023-24 Budget \$'000	2023-24 Est. Actual \$'000	2024-25 Budget \$'000
Capital purchases	19,022	11,504	12,702
Capital grants	..	..	..
<b>Total capital outlays</b>	<b>19,022</b>	<b>11,504</b>	<b>12,702</b>

### 3.4.5 Matters raised during the estimates process

There were no pre-hearing questions on notice or matters raised during the Estimates 2024 hearing process in relation to the Corporation.

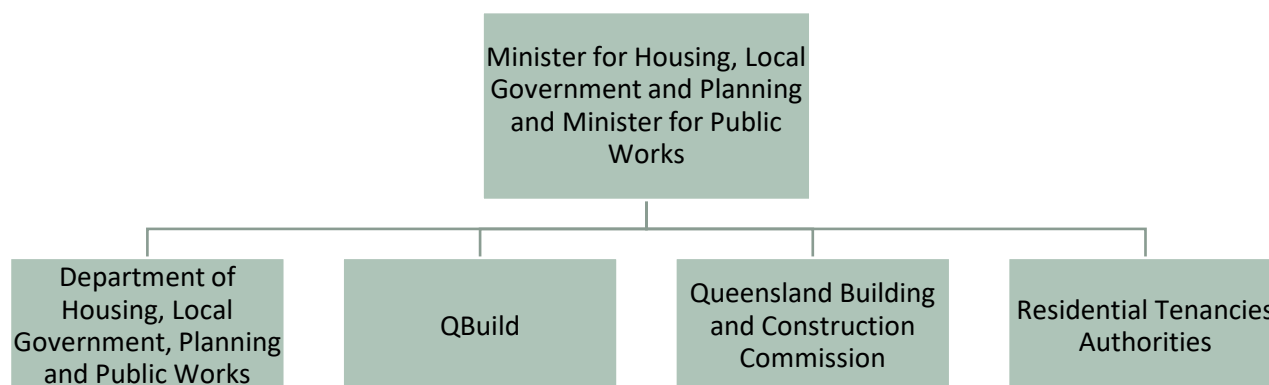
---

<sup>33</sup> Queensland Budget, 2024-25, SDS, DSDI, p 30.

<sup>34</sup> Queensland Budget, 2024-25, SDS, DSDI, p 30.

## 4 Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Public Works

The Honourable Meaghan Scanlon MP, Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Public Works has responsibility for the following agencies, services and statutory entities:



To assist the committee with its consideration of portfolio estimates, the Director-General of the department was present at the hearing on 24 July 2024. In keeping with the requirements of Schedule 7 of the Standing Orders, Chief Executives Officers from the Queensland Building and Construction Commission and the Residential Tenancies Authorities, along with the Independent Assessor from the Office of the Independent Assessor, were also present.<sup>35</sup>

### 4.1 Department of Housing, Local Government, Planning and Public Works

The Honourable Meaghan Scanlon MP, Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Public Works is the Minister responsible for the Department of Housing, Local Government, Planning and Public Works (DHLGPPW).

As part of the machinery-of-government changes effective 18 December 2023, the former Department of Housing was renamed the Department of Housing, Local Government, Planning and Public Works, with the following changes to its functions:

- Local Government, Planning, Office of the Independent Assessor was transferred from the Department of State Development and Infrastructure
- Building (including QBuild and Building Policy) and Office of the Queensland Government Architect was transferred from the Department of Energy and Climate.<sup>36</sup>

The DHLGPPW has 5 service areas:

- Housing and Homelessness Services
- Local Government governance support and administration of funding programs
- Office of the Independent Assessor
- Better Planning for Queensland
- Building and government accommodation services.<sup>37</sup>

<sup>35</sup> Standing Orders, Schedule 7, p 96.

<sup>36</sup> Queensland Budget, 2024-25, SDS, DHLGPPW, p 1.

<sup>37</sup> Queensland Budget, 2024-25, SDS, DHLGPPW, pp 3-8.

The objectives of these service areas are to:

- deliver well-designed housing solutions through planning, building and partnerships
- support Queenslanders to achieve improved housing outcomes
- strengthen resilience where people want to live, work and play.<sup>38</sup>

#### 4.1.1 Key deliverables

As set out in the SDS, the key deliverables of the DHLGPPW in 2024-25 include:

- delivering initiatives under the Homes for Queenslanders plan
- continuing to work with the Australian Government on the national housing reform agenda to maximise outcomes for Queenslanders
- working with councils to support the delivery of projects funded through grant programs, including the 2024–27 Works for Queensland, 2024–27 South-East Queensland Community Stimulus Program, and the next round of the Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program
- continuing to implement the councillor conduct complaints system
- continuing the targeted review of regional plans across Queensland, including delivering the Far North Queensland Regional Plan Review, to address housing needs and key priorities for the regions
- continuing to invest in the delivery of safe and secure government employee housing, including renewing and upgrading current owned assets, as part of the government’s commitment to attract and retain key frontline staff in remote locations such as police, health workers, and teachers
- in consultation with industry, continuing the implementation of the Queensland Building Plan 2021 priorities including progressing reform options to strengthen the Queensland Home Warranty Scheme, security of payment in the building industry and the National Construction Code
- continuing to facilitate the delivery of high risk and/or high value capital works projects on behalf of Queensland Government agencies such as the New Performing Arts Venue, Lockyer Valley Correctional Centre, and Satellite Hospital Program.<sup>39</sup>

#### 4.1.2 Budget overview

The Appropriation Bill 2024 proposes an allocation of \$3.75 billion for the DHLGPPW to fund the cost of delivering departmental services, administered items and equity adjustment in 2024-25.<sup>40</sup>

Appropriations	Budget 2023-24 \$'000	Est. Actual 2023-24 \$'000	Vote 2024-25 \$'000
<i>Controlled Items</i>			
departmental services	1,026,401	1,606,374	2,412,996
equity adjustment	457,265	571,837	597,222
<i>Administered Items</i>	35,496	68,296	744,088
<b>Vote</b>	<b>1,519,162</b>	<b>2,246,507</b>	<b>3,754,306</b>

<sup>38</sup> Queensland Budget, 2024-25, SDS, DHLGPPW, p 1.

<sup>39</sup> Queensland Budget, 2024-25, SDS, DHLGPPW, pp 1-2.

<sup>40</sup> Appropriation Bill 2024, Schedule 2, p 12.



Total expenses are estimated to be \$3.9 billion in 2024-25, an increase of \$1.2 billion from the 2023-24 estimated actual. Total revenues for the DHLGPPW are estimated to be \$3.7 billion in 2024-25, an increase of \$1.2 billion from the estimated actual.<sup>41</sup>

The SDS states that increases to expenses and revenues are due to increased investment in housing and homelessness services and responses, and machinery of government changes.

In relation to administered items, DHLGPPW will administer funds of \$37.5 million for the Residential Tenancies Authority and \$53.8 million for Q Build. DHLGPPW will also administer \$650 million in Financial Assistance Grants to local governments from funding received from the Australian Government, \$25 million in grant payments from in response to natural disasters on behalf of the Queensland and Australian Governments.<sup>42</sup>

Due to significant machinery of government changes it is not possible to directly compare the 2024-25 allocations with previous budgets.

The supplementary appropriation for 2023-24 for the department is also set out below:<sup>43</sup>

Supplementary appropriation for 2023-24	Amount \$'000
<i>Controlled items</i>	
departmental services	201,782
equity adjustment	36,037
<i>Administered items</i>	122,875
Total amount for department	360,694

#### 4.1.3 Staffing

Total Full Time Equivalents (FTEs) as at 30 June 2024 for the department are budgeted to be 2,281 positions, 309 more than the estimated actual in the previous year. The SDS states that the variance between the 2023-24 estimated actual and budget for this year are primarily due to increases to support the delivery of the Homes for Queenslanders plan.<sup>44</sup>

DHLGPPW Service area	2023-24 Adjusted Budget	2023-24 Estimated Actual	2024-25 Budget
Total FTEs	1,875	1,972	2,281

<sup>41</sup> Queensland Budget, 2024-25, SDS, DHLGPPW, p 13.

<sup>42</sup> Queensland Budget, 2024-25, SDS, DHLGPPW, p 13.

<sup>43</sup> Appropriation Bill 2024, Schedule 3, p 20.

<sup>44</sup> Queensland Budget, 2024-25, SDS, DHLGPPW, p 11.

#### 4.1.4 Budget highlights

The 2024-25 budget highlights for DHLGPPW, as set out in the SDS include: <sup>45</sup>

<b>Addressing key housing pressures including supply, and the delivery of new social housing and the social housing capital program. This forms part of total program funding of \$3.1 billion over 5 years for Homes for Queenslanders, the Queensland Government's whole-of-system housing plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$688 million in 2024–25, inclusive of \$578.7 million for services and \$109.3 million for capital works, for housing and homelessness services and responses</li> </ul>
<b>Part of total program funding of \$61.6 million over 2 years to continue delivery of the needs-based Indigenous Councils funding program and to establish an entity to support Indigenous Councils</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$30.8 million in 2024–25</li> </ul>
<b>Part of total program funding of \$46.3 million over 3 years for identified initiatives as part of the \$1.28 billion Community Safety Plan for Queensland</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$27.8 million in 2024–25</li> </ul>

#### 4.1.5 Capital program

The DHLGPPW's capital program for 2024-25 is \$1.7 billion. This includes capital purchases of \$736.7 million and capital grants of \$984.8 million. <sup>46</sup>

	2023-24 Budget \$'000	2023-24 Est. Actual \$'000	2024-25 Budget \$'000
Capital purchases	571,432	605,169	736,735
Capital grants	525,279	589,135	984,848
<b>Total capital outlays</b>	<b>1,096,711</b>	<b>1,194,304</b>	<b>1,721,583</b>

The major components of capital purchases include:

- \$407.8 million to deliver social housing dwellings, commence and continue construction, and upgrade social housing dwellings.
- \$162.9 million to deliver safe and secure government employee housing including in remote and regional communities as part of government's commitment to attract and retain key frontline staff.
- \$93.6 million to deliver social housing dwellings in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, commence and continue construction of dwellings, and upgrade existing social housing dwellings. <sup>47</sup>

The major components of capital grants include:

- \$545.2 million to deliver social housing dwellings, commence and continue construction, and upgrade existing dwellings in partnership with registered housing providers.
- \$124.5 million as part of the \$1.099 billion Works for Queensland program to support local governments in regional Queensland to deliver priority infrastructure, planning and capability projects that create jobs and support vibrant local communities.
- \$78.8 million to deliver social housing dwellings in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, commence and continue construction, upgrade existing dwellings, and undertake land infrastructure development.

<sup>45</sup> Queensland Budget, 2024-25, SDS, DHLGPPW, p 2.

<sup>46</sup> Queensland Budget, 2024-25, SDS, DHLGPPW, p 11.

<sup>47</sup> Queensland Budget, 2024-25, SDS, DHLGPPW, p 11.

- \$76.3 million for the Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program, which provides funding for priority infrastructure projects to meet identified community needs.
- \$72 million towards the \$200 million South East Queensland Community Stimulus Program to fast track South East Queensland councils' investment in new infrastructure and community assets.
- \$63.4 million to eligible homeowners to raise, repair or retrofit their homes to incorporate flood resilient design and materials to reduce the impacts of future flood events.<sup>48</sup>

#### 4.1.6 Matters raised during the estimates process

Matters raised during the committee's examination of the Department of Housing, Local Government, Planning and Public Works are listed below.

Matters considered by the committee in relation to the estimates for the DHLGPPW	Pre-hearing questions on notice
Adoption of the National Construction Code 2022	1
Support for faith-based and charity organisations in developing social and community housing on surplus land	2
Measures to mitigate the rise in construction costs and support the housing industry	3
Financial measures to accelerate infrastructure delivery for new housing	4
Average wait times, allocation processes and support for those on the Social Housing Register	5
Measures to increase housing supply across the state as part of the commitment to 1 million new homes by 2046	6
Performance of the Office of the Independent Assessor	7
Support for renters in Queensland	8
Construction methods to deliver homes across Queensland	10
Incentivising Infill Development Fund – the number of applications and the amount of funding sought in each local government area	13
Capital Programs for Local Government	14
Planned and unplanned maintenance budget for the social housing portfolio	15
Social Housing portfolio – how many dwellings are uninhabited and have been uninhabited for 30 days or more	16
Vacant land managed by the department broken down by Housing Service Centre as at 1 July 2024 – how many vacant blocks and longest period left vacant	17

<sup>48</sup> Queensland Budget, 2024-25, SDS, DJLGPPW, pp 11-12.

Social housing tenancies managed by the department as at 1 July 2024 – number of tenants currently incarcerated and the number paying minimum rent	18
Support provided to Indigenous Housing Groups and corporations	19
Incentives to encourage utilisation of existing, vacant housing stock west of the Great Dividing Range	20
<b>Matters raised during the Estimates 2024 public hearing on 24 July 2024 in relation to the DHLGPPW</b>	<b>Public hearing transcript, page no:</b>
Data in relation to people allocated a social housing property and subsequently removed from the Social Housing Register	57-58
Delay in reporting social housing data	58- 60
Emergency hotel accommodation	60-63, 68
Supporting home ownership through the Help to Buy shared equity scheme	63-64
Purchasing of National Rental Affordability Scheme properties	64
Government initiatives to end homelessness	65
Growing community and public housing	66
Homes for Queenslanders plan for the Moreton Bay region	66-67
Support more homes for First Nations communities	67
Damage to social housing properties	68-69
Evictions from social housing properties	70
The period of time a social housing property is kept vacant for an individual who is incarcerated and the rental rate they pay during their incarceration	70-71
The number of homeless people at the Pine Rivers Showgrounds	71-72
Support for young renters through its Homes for Queenslanders plan	72
How Queensland is leveraging off the federal government's Housing Australia Future Fund	72-73
Independent review into homelessness services and funding	74-75
Land made available by the Catholic Church for affordable housing	78-79, 91-93
Plans for the underutilised dwellings west of the Great Divide	79-80
Steps taken to ensure there is no extra housing pressure on places like Mt Isa from Northern Territory itinerants	80

Performance of and resources for Indigenous community housing organisations	80
Number of dwellings built and completed with funds from the Housing Investment Fund since its announcement in 2021	80-81
Number of additional residences constructed in the Mirani electorate over the last 3 financial years	81
Government collaboration with local government and key industry stakeholders when planning developments such as the Waraba Priority Development Area	85-86
Funding request by Bundaberg Regional Council for the Bundaberg East flood levee	87
Investigations in relation to the mayor of Townsville	87-88
Management of fire ants in the Gold Coast, Brisbane, Ipswich, Logan, Redlands, Moreton Bay, Somerset and the Scenic Rim areas	88
Works for Queensland program	88-89
Incentivising Infill Development Fund	90
Financial assistance grants for local governments and their financial sustainability	93-96
Preventing new developments being approved in flood zones	97
Complaints or allegations against CFMEU officials	99
Productivity on building sites	99
Best Practice Industry Conditions (BPIC)	104-105
Addressing the red tape on the state's building and construction industry	108

## 4.2 QBuild

The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Public Works also has ministerial responsibility for the budget of QBuild.

QBuild is a commercialised business unit within the DHLGPPW, tasked with providing state-wide planning, building, maintenance and recovery services to support Queensland regional jobs, provide building expertise and utilise local suppliers and QBuild apprentices.<sup>49</sup>

### 4.2.1 Key deliverables

In 2024–25, the key deliverables of QBuild include:

- continuing to grow the trade-based workforce with an additional 181 staff including 30 apprentices and implement ongoing workforce strategies to grow QBuild to 1,000 trade and apprentice positions by 2026

<sup>49</sup> Queensland Budget, 2024-25, SDS, DHLGPPW, p 23.

- progressing a high-quality apprenticeship program ensuring a skilled workforce to deliver government construction and maintenance services and effective natural disaster responses
- increasing regional capacity and capability across Queensland with the upgrade and redevelopment of QBuild's depot infrastructure
- ensuring a safe work environment for our customers, contractors and the community
- delivering the Modern Methods of Construction Program through QBuild's Rapid Accommodation and Apprenticeship Centres, in partnership with industry, to fast track the delivery of homes for vulnerable Queenslanders and essential government workers.<sup>50</sup>

#### 4.2.2 Budget overview

Total income in 2024–25 for QBuild is budgeted to be \$1.370 billion, a decrease of \$16.3 million from the 2023–24 estimated actuals. The SDS states that this decrease primarily reflects anticipated client agencies' programs of work. The decrease is partially offset by an increase in other revenue to support Rebuild QBuild.<sup>51</sup>

Total expenses in 2024–25 are budgeted to be \$1.362 billion, a decrease of \$3.8 million from the 2023–24 estimated actuals. The SDS states that this reflects increased insourcing of works as part of Rebuild QBuild and client agencies' programs of work. The decrease is partially offset by an increase in employee expenses.<sup>52</sup>

#### 4.2.3 Staffing

Full-time Equivalents (FTEs) staffing for QBuild as at 30 June in respective years are as follows:<sup>53</sup>

QBuild	2023-24 Adjusted Budget	2023-24 Est. Actual	2024-24 Budget
Total FTEs	1,712	1,712	2,284

#### 4.2.4 Capital program

QBuild's capital program is almost \$14.9 million for 2024-25.<sup>54</sup>

	2023-24 Budget \$'000	2023-24 Est. Actual \$'000	2024-25 Budget \$'000
Capital purchases	4,343	4,243	14,861
Capital grants	..	..	..
<b>Total capital outlays</b>	<b>4,343</b>	<b>4,243</b>	<b>14,861</b>

Program highlights include:

- \$7.6 million investment to further deliver QBuild Rapid Accommodation and Apprenticeship Centres in South East Queensland and Cairns.
- \$5.7 million investment to continue office and depot infrastructure upgrades across the state.<sup>55</sup>

<sup>50</sup> Queensland Budget, 2024-25, SDS, DHLGPPW, p 23.

<sup>51</sup> Queensland Budget, 2024-25, SDS, DHLGPPW, p 26.

<sup>52</sup> Queensland Budget, 2024-25, SDS, DHLGPPW, p 26.

<sup>53</sup> Queensland Budget, 2024-25, SDS, DHLGPPW, p 25.

<sup>54</sup> Queensland Budget, 2024-25, SDS, DHLGPPW, p 25.

<sup>55</sup> Queensland Budget, 2024-25, SDS, DHLGPPW, p 25.

#### 4.2.5 Matters raised during the estimates process

Matters raised during the Estimates 2024 public hearing on 24 July 2024 in relation to QBuild	Public hearing transcript, page no:
Increasing the capacity of QBuild	102
Measures to grow the construction workforce	103
Innovative methods to deliver on the Homes for Queenslanders plan	103
QBuild's network of depots	104
Number of homes delivered by the QBuild facility at Eagle Farm	105-106

### 4.3 Queensland Building and Construction Commission

The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Public Works also has ministerial responsibility for the budget of the Queensland Building and Construction Commission (QBCC).

The QBCC's objectives are to:

- support a strong, safe and sustainable industry through responsive regulatory activity to reduce risk and harm
- improve the customer experience through the provision of information, advice and decisions that are practical, clearly communicated, transparent and timely
- educate and inform customers and stakeholders to support continuous quality improvement
- be a sustainable and digitally enabled organisation.<sup>56</sup>

#### 4.3.1 Budget overview

QBCC's budgeted income for 2024–25 is \$346.1 million, a decrease of \$73.4 million from the estimated actuals for the 2023–24 financial year. The SDS states that this is primarily due to an expected decrease in claims recovery income in 2024–25.<sup>57</sup>

The QBCC's budgeted expenses for 2024–25 are \$389.2 million, a decrease of \$22.9 million from the estimated actuals for 2023–24. This decrease is attributable to losses on sale/revaluation of assets relating to a reduction in the provision for doubtful receivables for claim recovery.<sup>58</sup>

#### 4.3.2 Staffing

Total Full Time Equivalents (FTEs) as at 30 June 2024 for the department are budgeted to be 778 positions.<sup>59</sup>

	2023-24 Budget	2023-24 Est. Actual	2024-24 Budget
Total FTEs	741	741	778

<sup>56</sup> Queensland Budget, 2024-25, SDS, DHLGPPW, p 30.

<sup>57</sup> Queensland Budget, 2024-25, SDS, DHLGPPW, p 34.

<sup>58</sup> Queensland Budget, 2024-25, SDS, DHLGPPW, p 34.

<sup>59</sup> Queensland Budget, 2024-25, SDS, DHLGPPW, p 33.

### 4.3.3 Capital program

The QBCC's total capital outlays of \$5.7 million for 2024-25 includes \$4 million for new leasehold premises fitouts and \$1.7 million for replacement of motor vehicles.<sup>60</sup>

	2023-24 Budget \$'000	2023-24 Est. Actual \$'000	2024-24 Budget \$'000
Capital purchases	1,394	3,308	5,745
<b>Total capital outlays</b>	<b>1,394</b>	<b>3,308</b>	<b>5,745</b>

### 4.3.4 Matters raised during the estimates process

Matters considered by the committee in relation to the estimates for the QBCC	Pre-hearing questions on notice
Average wait times for QBCC inspections	9
The number of FTE staff employed by the QBCC	11
The current average waiting time for defective building work inspections and home warranty claim processing by QBCC region	12
Matters raised during the Estimates 2024 public hearing on 24 July 2024 in relation to the QBCC	Public hearing transcript, page no:
Number of complaints referred to the Crime and Corruption Commission by the QBCC	100
Staff turnover rate in the QBCC	101
Internal review function of the QBCC	101
Project trust accounts	102
Contracting provisions in the QBCC Act	108

## 4.4 Residential Tenancies Authority

The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Public Works also has ministerial responsibility for the budget of the Residential Tenancies Authority (RTA).

The RTA's purpose is to provide fair, valued and impactful rental regulation, legislative information and support services.<sup>61</sup> The RTA's objectives are to:

- enhance customer service delivery and experiences
- regulate and influence the residential rental sector
- transform digital service provision.<sup>62</sup>

<sup>60</sup> Queensland Budget, 2024-25, SDS, DHLGPPW, p 33.

<sup>61</sup> Queensland Budget, 2024-25, SDS, DHLGPPW, p 38.

<sup>62</sup> Queensland Budget, 2024-25, SDS, DHLGPPW, p 39.



#### 4.4.1 Key deliverables

In 2024–25, the SDS states that the RTA will continue:

- working with the Queensland Government to implement rental reforms and initiatives under the ‘Support for Queenslanders’ and the ‘Renters Relief Package’ in the Homes for Queenslanders plan
- enforcing compliance with the *Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Act 2008* and implement the Compliance and Enforcement Action Plan 2024
- delivering the RTA’s Strategic Plan 2022–26 including implementing digital transformation to drive efficiencies, improve access and service delivery and respond to an evolving environment.<sup>63</sup>

#### 4.4.2 Budget overview

In 2024–25, total expenses are estimated to be \$63.1 million, an increase of \$5.4 million from the 2023–24 estimated actual. The SDS states that this is due to increases in Enterprise Bargaining Agreements, increases in frontline resources and the delivery of mandatory projects and initiatives required to deliver strategic plan priorities.<sup>64</sup>

In 2024–25, total income is estimated to be \$38.3 million, a decrease of \$1.8 million from the 2023–24 Estimated Actual due to no Other Income being derived in 2024–25.<sup>65</sup>

#### 4.4.3 Staffing

Full-time Equivalents (FTEs) staffing for RTA as at 30 June in respective years are as follows:<sup>66</sup>

RTA	2023-24 Budget	2023-24 Est. Actual	2024-24 Budget
Total FTEs	240	260	260

#### 4.4.4 Matters raised during the estimates process

Matters raised during the Estimates 2024 public hearing on 24 July 2024 in relation to the Residential Tenancies Authority	Public hearing transcript, page no:
Timeframe for the completion of the portable bond scheme	75-76
Modelling of reasons why 20,000 rental properties have left the private rental market	77-78

<sup>63</sup> Queensland Budget, 2024-25, SDS, DHLGPPW, p 38.

<sup>64</sup> Queensland Budget, 2024-25, SDS, DHLGPPW, p 38.

<sup>65</sup> Queensland Budget, 2024-25, SDS, DHLGPPW, p 38.

<sup>66</sup> Queensland Budget, 2024-25, SDS, DHLGPPW, p 40.

## 5 Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water

The Honourable Glenn Butcher MP, Minister for Regional Development, Manufacturing and Minister for Water has responsibility for the following agencies, services and statutory entities:



To assist the committee with its consideration of portfolio estimates, the Director-General of the department was present at the hearing on 24 July 2024. In keeping with the requirements of Schedule 7 of the Standing Orders, Chief Executive Officers from Sunwater and Queensland Bulk Water Supply Authority (Seqwater), along with the Energy and Water Ombudsman, were also present at the hearing.<sup>67</sup>

### 5.1 Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water

The Honourable Glenn Butcher MP, Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water, is the Minister responsible for the Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water (DRDMW).

As part of the machinery-of-government changes, effective 18 December 2023, there was a change to the following function:

- Office for Rural and Regional Queensland was transferred from Department of the Premier and Cabinet.<sup>68</sup>

The DRDMW has 2 service areas:

- Drive regional economic growth
- Water resource management services.<sup>69</sup>

The objectives of these service areas are to:

- drive regional investment, economic growth and jobs in Queensland communities
- lead water resource management to achieve sustainability and public safety outcomes
- encourage and support innovation
- leverage the strength of our partners.<sup>70</sup>

<sup>67</sup> Standing Orders, Schedule 7, p 96.

<sup>68</sup> Queensland Budget, 2024-25, SDS, DRDMW, p 1.

<sup>69</sup> Queensland Budget, 2024-25, SDS, DRDMW, pp 3-4.

<sup>70</sup> Queensland Budget, 2024-25, SDS DRDMW, p 1.

### 5.1.1 Key deliverables

The key deliverables of DRDMW in 2024-25 include:

- driving advanced manufacturing and jobs growth across Queensland through the continued implementation of the Queensland Advanced Manufacturing 10-Year Roadmap and Action Plan
- supporting regional development by engaging with local government and regional organisations and coordinating strategic policy advice on regional development, through departmental input into State and Australian Government programs, policies, plans and research projects
- supporting manufacturers to grow in a carbon neutral future through the delivery of services encouraging the adoption of energy efficiency measures and sustainable manufacturing practices, and building the capacity of manufacturers to participate in supply chains to manufacture renewable energy technologies
- continuing to diversify the manufacturing workforce through the delivery of actions in the Women in Manufacturing Strategy and delivering the First Nations Manufacturing Strategy to build capacity and capability of First Nations manufacturing businesses
- boosting jobs and economic development opportunities through the release of unallocated water and advancing Queensland's Big Build water infrastructure projects including Paradise Dam Improvement Project, Burdekin Falls Dam Raising and Improvement Project, Big Rocks Weir, the Fitzroy to Gladstone Pipeline, the Toowoomba to Warwick Pipeline, and the Mount Morgan Pipeline,
- supporting improvement in urban water supply and sewerage service provision by Council owned water service providers through facilitating State and Australian Government funding options
- identifying community needs and future water infrastructure solutions through regional water assessments (RWA) in priority areas
- undertaking science-based water planning incorporating community feedback, climate change modelling, and environmental, cultural and economic outcomes across Water Plan areas, including formal review of the Gold Coast, Moreton, Fitzroy, Pioneer Valley, Burnett, Burdekin Basin, Gulf, Georgina and Diamantina water plans
- undertaking meaningful engagement with First Nations peoples to inform water planning and other decision-making, including continuing preparation of a First Nations Water Strategy in partnership with Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- working in partnership with the Australian Government and other jurisdictions on the revised National Water Initiative and to improve the sustainable management of the Murray Darling Basin.<sup>71</sup>

### 5.1.2 Budget overview

The Appropriation Bill 2024 proposes an allocation of \$655 million for the DRDMW to fund the cost of delivering departmental services, administered items and equity adjustment in 2024-25.<sup>72</sup>

Appropriations	Budget 2023-24 \$'000	Est. Actual 2023-24 \$'000	Vote 2024-25 \$'000
<i>Controlled Items</i>			
departmental services	271,584	633,378	322,062

<sup>71</sup> Queensland Budget, 2024-25, SDS, DRDMW, pp 1-2.

<sup>72</sup> Appropriation Bill 2024, Schedule 2, p 12.

equity adjustment	465,300	769,316	296,500
<i>Administered Items</i>	46,883	28,758	36,688
<b>Vote</b>	<b>783,767</b>	<b>1,431,452</b>	<b>655,250</b>

The vote comprises \$618.6 million in departmental expenses (controlled items) and \$36.7 million in administered items.

Total expenses are estimated to be \$341.4 million in 2024-25, a decrease of \$654.4 million from the 2023-24 estimated actual. The SDS states that this decrease is due to the transfer of Rookwood Weir to Sunwater and additional funding provided to the Gladstone Area Water Board for the Fitzroy to Gladstone Pipeline.<sup>73</sup>

Estimated revenues of the department are \$19.4 million in 2024-25, a decrease of \$55.7 million from the 2023-24 estimated actual. The SDS states that this decrease is largely due to the loss of water sales revenue following the transfer of Rookwood Weir.<sup>74</sup>

DRDMW is budgeted to deliver \$36.7 million in administered items in 2024. This includes Titles Lodgement Revenue collected under the *Water Act 2000* and the Community Service Obligations payments, which are made to Sunwater and Seqwater for the provision of rural irrigations services and Cloncurry Pipeline.<sup>75</sup>

Due to machinery of government changes it is not possible to directly compare the 2024-25 allocations with previous budgets.

The supplementary appropriation for 2023-24 for the department is also noted:<sup>76</sup>

Supplementary appropriation for 2023-24	Amount \$'000
<i>Controlled items</i>	
departmental services	340,403
equity adjustment	304,016
<i>Administered items</i>	..
Total amount for department	644,419

### 5.1.3 Staffing

Full-time equivalents (FTEs) staffing numbers for the DRDMW are budgeted to be 775 in 2024-25:<sup>77</sup>

DRDMW Service area	2023-24 Adjusted Budget	2023-24 Estimated Actual	2024-25 Budget
<b>Total FTEs</b>	<b>741</b>	<b>771</b>	<b>775</b>

<sup>73</sup> Queensland Budget, 2024-25, SDS, DRDMW, p 7.

<sup>74</sup> Queensland Budget, 2024-25, SDS, DRDMW, p 7.

<sup>75</sup> Queensland Budget, 2024-25, SDS, DRDMW, p 7.

<sup>76</sup> Appropriation Bill 2024, Schedule 3, p 21.

<sup>77</sup> Queensland Budget, 2024-25, SDS, DRDMW, p 6.

### 5.1.4 Budget highlights

The 2024-25 budget highlights for the DRDMW include:<sup>78</sup>

<b>Support to Cairns Regional Council to complete stage one of the Cairns Water Security Program, bringing the total state funding available for this program to \$195 million</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$87.5 million over 3 years (held centrally, subject to conditions)</li> </ul>
<b>Support to the Burdekin Shire Council with stage one of a new water treatment plant in Ayr</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$46.9 million over 3 years</li> </ul>
<b>Assistance to small and medium-sized manufacturers to increase their international competitiveness, productivity and innovation under 'Make it in Queensland' through the Made in Queensland grant program (\$20 million) and Manufacturing Hubs Grant Program (\$5 million)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$25 million</li> </ul>
<b>Funds to continue the successful bore capping program in the Great Artesian Basin to support regional economies and protect cultural and environmental values</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>up to \$32 million over 4 years (with funding matched by the Australian Government)</li> </ul>
<b>Establishment of the Office of the Cross Border Commissioner to lead coordination with the New South Wales Government on issues and opportunities affecting border communities.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$3.3 million over 3 years</li> </ul>

### 5.1.5 Capital program

The DRDMW's total capital program of \$150.7 million for 2024-25 includes \$3.5 million for capital purchases and \$147.2 million for capital grants.<sup>79</sup>

	<b>2023-24 Budget</b>	<b>2023-24 Est. Actual</b>	<b>2024-25 Budget</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
Capital purchases	3,500	7,463	3,500
Capital grants	103,569	514,761	147,171
<b>Total capital outlays</b>	<b>107,069</b>	<b>522,224</b>	<b>150,671</b>

Major components of capital grants for 2024-25 include:

- \$34.7 million for Made in Queensland, a \$121.5 million grant program that assists small to medium sized manufacturers to increase international competitiveness, productivity and innovation via the adoption of new technologies, systems and processes, and to generate high-skilled jobs for the future
- \$26.4 million to continue the Mount Morgan Pipeline project, in partnership with the Australian Government, for Rockhampton Regional Council to construct a drinking water pipeline from Gracemere to Mount Morgan providing reliability of water supply
- \$20.1 million for stage one of the Ayr Water Treatment Plant to support Burdekin Shire Council in the delivery of safe and reliable drinking water to the community through the construction of a new water treatment plant and refurbishing of South Ayr bores

<sup>78</sup> Queensland Budget, 2024-25, SDS, DRDMW, p 2.

<sup>79</sup> Queensland Budget, 2024-25, SDS, DRDMW, p 6.

- \$11.3 million for the Manufacturing Hubs Grant Program, a \$33.5 million grant program that assists regional small to medium sizes manufacturers to become productive, build their advanced manufacturing capabilities and create jobs of the future.<sup>80</sup>

#### 5.1.6 Matters raised during the estimates process

Matters raised during the committee's examination of the DRDMW are listed below:

Matters considered by the committee in relation to the estimates for the DRDMW	Pre-hearing questions on notice
Staffing of Queensland Manufacturing Hubs and services provided to Queensland manufacturing businesses	1
Benefits of the Queensland Train Manufacturing Program	2
Measures to deliver services in regional communities	3
Measures to provide safe drinking water and sewerage services, particularly in regional communities	4
Update on Seqwater's Dam Improvement Program	5
Framework for review of Water Plans	6
Progress on the Murry Darling Basin Plan	7
Update on Seqwater's planning activities for projects to expand the SEQ Water Grid	8
Support for improved water security for agricultural producers, particularly in the Lockyer Valley and Somerset	9
Incorporating a strong evidence and science base when planning and delivering water projects	10
Approved projects in the 2024-25 capital budget	11
Staffing breakdown for DRDMW for each financial year from 2020	12
Queensland's drinking water service providers and compliancy with drinking water regulatory requirements	13
Regions and dates where contaminated drinking water has been identified during the 2023-24 financial year	14
Staffing, building lease and other operational costs for each Manufacturing Hub	15
Volume of water storage capacity required in South East Queensland to cater for population growth ahead of the Brisbane 2032 Olympics	16

<sup>80</sup> Queensland Budget, 2024-25, SDS, DRDMW, p 6.

List of successful grant recipients for each round of the Made in Queensland grant program (Round 1-6)	17
List of successful grant recipients for each round of the Manufacturing Hubs Grant Program	18
Progress of all current regional water plans, including original intended and current expected completion dates	19
How SunWater is supporting the development of the North West and industry through access to water	20
<b>Matters raised during the Estimates 2024 public hearing on 24 July 2024 in relation to the DRDMW</b>	<b>Public hearing transcript, page no:</b>
Train manufacturing in Maryborough	112-116, 121-122
Queensland government's manufacturing industry support measures	117
Measures to increase the participation of women in Queensland's manufacturing industry	117
Manufacturing energy efficiency grants and how they support manufacturers to lower emissions and reduce energy bills	118
How the Queensland government is supporting regional development	118-119
Probity officers for a meeting that was held between executives of Hyundai Rotem and the Assistant Minister for Train Manufacturing	119
The number of seats on the new trains	119-120
Regional forum groups	120, 124-125
Cost of machinery of government changes for moving Office of Rural and Regional Development from the Premiers department	120
Role and responsibilities of the Cross-border Commissioner	121, 126
Update on the progress of the Made in Queensland grants program	122
Update on the progress of the Manufacturing Hubs Grant Program	123
Draft Queensland Craft Brewing Strategy	123-124
Methanol mandate	126
Phosphate fertiliser plant in North-West Queensland	126
Mossman Mill	126-127
Support for promoting industrial growth in the regions, particularly in Mackay and Central Queensland	127

Renewables projects to support councils like Livingstone Shire Council	127
Desalination plants and locations being considered	128, 129-131
Costs of consultants and contractors engaged by Seqwater	129 and 131
Postponement of four water plans	131-133
Haughton pipeline	133-134
Update on Seqwater's plan to continue to deliver safe and secure drinking water for South East Queensland	134
Government support for the health of the Great Artesian Basin	135
Support for regional councils with water security projects	135-136
Benefits to Central Queensland from the recently completed Rookwood Weir	136-137
Lowering of the Paradise Dam wall	137-138
Timeframes for issuing multiyear volumetric account statements	138
Somerset Dam Improvement Project	138
Cormorant Bay Café at Wivenhoe Dam	139
Cressbrook Dam in the Toowoomba Regional Council area	140
Land resumed for the Nathan Dam	140-141
Impacts from the Charters Towers weir	141
Regional water plan for the Flinders catchment	141-142
Pipeline to Mount Morgan	143
Update on investments to Sunwater's industrial pipelines	143
Update on how the Burdekin Falls Dam Improvement project will support water security and economic growth in North Queensland	143-144
Update on the Mareeba-Dimbulah supply scheme efficiency project	144



# Statement of Reservation – Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee

## **Introduction**

Opposition members of the Committee agree with the passing of the 2024/25 Budget but acknowledge its clear limitations.

It is a matter of regret that the Estimates process has, once again, been characterised by obfuscation, concealment rather than transparency and the triumph of the opaque over the crystal clear.

At the conclusion of nearly a decade in office, and at the end of the first four year parliamentary term, the government has failed to provide reassurance that its policies are meeting the significant challenges that face the state – the cost of living crisis, the health crisis, the crime crisis and the housing crisis.

The band aid solutions outlined in the Budget fail to address the underlying causes behind these challenges. Simply directing scarce government funds at problems – many of which are the direct result of government action or inaction – will not provide the long term solutions that are required.

The Budget provided a chance for the government to chart a new direction, to discard the errors of the past and reassure Queenslanders that problems will be met head on. Unfortunately, there is no evidence that this is occurring.

Unless the government faces the economic challenges that confront the state there is little prospect other underlying problems will be overcome. The Estimates process has revealed just how unprepared the government is to meet its responsibilities to help Queenslanders.

## **State Development; Infrastructure**

The provision of new infrastructure is essential in a growing state like Queensland. However, an evaluation of this government's performance in this area and this budget's initiatives are very hard when the minister responsible for infrastructure doesn't understand key projects proposed by the government.

The Minister was unable to provide answers to questions about multiple projects including the Bribie Island Bridge, Cross River Rail or the Pioneer Burdekin pumped hydro scheme.

Regarding the Pioneer Burdekin scheme, it was hoped that the Coordinator General would have been able to provide more details. However, it would appear from the evidence provided that not enough work has yet been done on the project to warrant serious involvement of the Coordinator General. The lack of information available reinforces the Opposition's belief that the project is nothing but a hydro hoax.

Following revelations during hearings on the previous day that the \$1 billion cost of the Gabba Redevelopment project was just made up without the required planning, it was very concerning to hear that the announced \$1.6 billion Queensland Sport and Athletic Centre proposal also hasn't undergone proper planning and costing. Unfortunately, this government has no 'Plan C'.

## **Industrial Relations**

Under this decade long Labor Government the CFMEU has been running amok and the hearing showed that there is no desire bring this rogue union back under control.

Instead of outlining a plan to restore harmony and productivity to Queensland construction sites, the Minister chose to blame the Federal Government for the problem. The Minister confirmed that the government would not consider any legislative changes to address the issues that have been raised over many years.

## **Racing**

The LNP acknowledge that the Racing industry forms an important part of the Queensland economy, and the social fabric of our state – particularly in regional and rural towns.

The Estimates process uncovered that a long-awaited review into the Queensland Racing and Integrity Commission (QRIC) has been with the Minister for months. Despite direct questioning on this issue, the Minister was not able to give any indication on when the review is set to be made public – or what any of the findings were. It is widely expected that the conclusions of the review will be damning, particularly given the former QRIC Commissioner left unexpectedly and suddenly in June.

It is also worth noting that it was revealed the review cost taxpayers over half a million dollars.

In the interests of openness, accountability and transparency, the LNP believe that this review should be made public at the earliest available opportunity. This is necessary to provide the Racing industry with certainty and confidence that Queensland's racing integrity watchdog is working as it should. The Minister failed to do this during the course of the hearing.

## **Housing**

Queensland is in the midst of a Housing Crisis, the like of which we have not seen in living memory. The Estimates hearing came days after a stunning display by the Minister where she refused to release the figures for the Social Housing waiting list during a press conference – only for the data to be released that same Friday afternoon. This issue was canvassed at length throughout the hearing.

Being tricky with numbers, or trying to hide them from public view, is no way to fix a problem – you cannot fix what you do not measure. In this regard, the Minister's performance both prior to and during the hearing, evidenced an unwillingness to be scrutinised.

The proof of the crisis was laid bare throughout the hearing, with it being confirmed that record numbers of Queenslanders are being put up in hotels, and more than 5,500 Queenslanders being placed on the social housing waiting list in just nine months.

The critical lack of supply across the state is emblematic of a tired, third term Labor Government mired in chaos and crisis. Despite all their announcements and grandstanding the Queensland Housing Crisis under Labor continues to get worse.

It is clear that only LNP will build more homes sooner under its Securing our Housing Foundations plan, adding the new homes desperately needed to ease the Housing Crisis.

## **Planning**

Queensland has suffered a significant decline in the number of new lot approvals since the election of the Labor Government in 2015. Instead of outlining a range of policies to address the decline (as the LNP have done) the hearings heard of the war that the Queensland Government has launched on local government as they attempt to shift blame for their own failures. The State forcing a rushed Arundel Temporary Local Planning Instrument on the Gold Coast is just the latest example.

## **Local Government**

It was hoped that a new Minister for Local Government would bring a new focus on our Local Governments in the eyes of the State. How quickly we realised that nothing had changed. By the end of the Local Government session it was evident this sector is still not a priority for the Labor Government because the Minister is not across the detail and left the impression she was not taking the matters raised seriously.

The Minister did not know how much this Government's mismanagement of fire ants is costing local governments. The Minister was not able to give a long-term funding commitment to Works for Queensland, nor able to explain why the program's guidelines had been changed to require shovel-ready projects. Most alarmingly, the Minister could not explain why the Government plunged many of Queensland councils into deficit last financial year due to delayed Financial Assistance Grants payments. Financial sustainability is the number one pressure facing many Councils, especially in regional and rural Queensland, and this Minister seemed lost in her own super department without focus on the issues Councils face on a day-to-day basis.

Only the LNP will make Local Government a priority again, by making Local Government a Minister's primary responsibility, instead of becoming lost in a super-department as it is under Labor.

## **Public Works**

The Queensland public's concerns over the militant behaviour of the CFMEU has reached fever pitch in recent weeks. The serious issues around the union's influence on project time and cost blowouts was a feature of the hearing involving the public works portfolio.

The Minister refused to acknowledge the direct and indirect consequences the CFMEU's militant behaviour is having on the Housing crisis, and the construction sector more broadly. Concerningly, the Minister also flatly refused to confirm that no CFMEU official would be appointed to a role with the State's building watchdog, the Queensland Building and Construction Commission (QBCC), into the future.

Similar to last year, the Committee also heard that a concerning number of complaints were referred to the Crime and Corruption Commission by the QBCC. Over many years, the Labor Government have treated the QBCC like their political plaything – this has only eroded the public's confidence in an important institution within the state's construction sector.

## **Regional Development; Manufacturing; Water**

Committee members appreciated the opportunity to finally ask the Manufacturing Minister questions about the government's Train Manufacturing Program. Concerns were raised including Labor aligned lobbyist Anacta's involvement in Downer being granted the contract, as well as confidential correspondence sent from the Opposition to Downer being disclosed to the Minister. It was also confirmed the new trains would not be ready in time for the opening of Cross River Rail.

Rural and regional communities are important to the LNP. Concerningly, the Minister confirmed during Estimates that the Government's Regional Community Forums had been cut altogether. The Minister could still not provide the committee with outcomes from the previous forum meetings or any recommendations given.

In the water hearing, the Opposition reinforced its concerns at the government's anti-dam and anti-water security agenda. The government is still failing to come forth with detail around proposed desalination plants, where they will be situated, and how much Queenslanders will pay for them. The government is also refusing to present any plan for how future water security and population growth projections will be catered for.

### **Conclusion**

These hearings have revealed many shortcomings in the government's policies and little evidence that the government knows how to overcome these.

Effective service delivery comes a distant second in competing with political objectives and Queenslanders continue to be let down. There was little evidence provided over the course of Estimates that the government has a clear, coherent plan to overcome the significant problems facing the state.

Of equal concern was the government's failure to deliver public projects on budget and on time.

No evidence emerged during these hearings that the government has any capacity to overcome the continuing state of chaos and crisis that has characterised so much of the past decade.

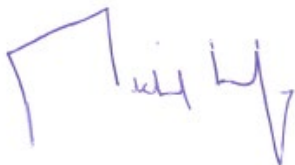
This Budget is a wasted opportunity and Queenslanders have been ignored by the government.



**Jim McDonald MP**

**Deputy Chair**

**Member for Lockyer**



**Michael Hart MP**

**Member for Burleigh**