

Estimates Committee A

Report No. 1, 8 October 1996

Legislative Assembly

Laid on the Table and Ordered to be printed. Estimates Committee A

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE A

REPORT TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF QUEENSLAND

Legislative Assembly

8 October 1996

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE A

CHAIRMAN:	Mr Robert Harper MLA (Member for Mount Ommaney)
DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:	Mr Peter Beattie MLA (Member for Brisbane Central)
MEMBERS:	Mr Allan Grice MLA (Member for Broadwater)
	Hon David Hamill MLA (Member for Ipswich)
	Ms Judith Spence MLA (Member for Mount Gravatt)
	Mr Lawrence Springborg MLA (Member for Warwick)
RESEARCH DIRECTOR:	Ms Kerry Newton
RESEARCH OFFICER:	Ms Sandy Rowse
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT:	Miss Tania Jackman

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Report to the Legislative Assembly

Estimates Committee A presents this report to the Legislative Assembly in relation to the estimates of expenditure for the Legislative Assembly (Parliamentary Service).

1.2 Sessional Orders dated 3 September 1996

The Legislative Assembly, pursuant to Sessional Orders adopted on 3 September 1996, appointed seven Estimates Committees to inquire into the estimates of expenditure contained in the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill No. 2 1996 and the Appropriation Bill No. 2 1996.

This Committee, being Estimates Committee A, had the following organisational units allocated to it:

Office of the Governor

Legislative Assembly

Queensland Audit Office

Parliamentary Commissioner for Administrative Investigations

Department of the Premier and Cabinet

Department of Economic Development and Trade

Treasury Department

Any other organisational units within the portfolios of the Premier and the Treasurer.

Sessional Order 23(2) requires that Estimates Committee A presents two reports; one for the Legislative Assembly and another for the other organisational units allocated to it.

The Committee has now considered the estimates referred to it in relation to the Legislative Assembly and has met in public session to receive evidence from the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and officers of the Parliamentary Service. Additional information, which has been received as a result of Questions on Notice prior to the hearing as well as questions taken on notice during the hearing, will be tabled separately in the Legislative Assembly.

1.3 Overview

At the outset the Committee notes that in September 1995 the former Parliamentary Service Commission was abolished and administrative responsibility for the Parliamentary Service is now vested in the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.

The mission of the Parliamentary Service, established under *the Parliamentary Service Act 1988*, is to pursue excellence in providing services to the Queensland Parliament and its Members. During

the hearing, the Speaker reiterated that the focus of the 1996/97 budget estimates is to assist Members of Parliament in providing better services to their constituents.

The Committee notes that the total budget estimate for the Legislative Assembly in 1996/97 is \$39.1m, which is an increase of approximately 6.9 per cent over the previous year's budget. Some of the areas to which the additional funding will be directed are elaborated upon in this report.

2. MAJOR NEW INITIATIVES FOR 1996/97

2.1 Improvements to Electorate Offices

The Committee notes that additional funding has been provided in 1996/97 to facilitate Members' constituency responsibilities through the provision of improved access to, and facilities within, electorate offices. In this regard the following improvements were noted by the Committee:

- The establishment of five new electorate offices in the electoral districts of 100,000 square kilometres or more in area.
- The proposed replacement of outdated electorate office photocopiers.
- The upgrading of electorate office telephone systems which are now technologically inferior and difficult to repair. During the hearing the Speaker advised that an amount of \$235,000 has been included in the 1996/97 budget to replace this system with one offering the latest technology and discounted call costs.
- Upgrading of hardware and software in electorate offices. At the hearing the Committee was informed that in addition to the recent upgrading of hardware and the staged program to upgrade the software in electorate offices, the training of electorate officers was continuing. This training is expected to conclude late this year, or early next year, after which modems will be provided so that all electorate offices will be brought on-line and be able to access services within the Parliament remotely.

In relation to the provision of additional part-time staff for Members, the Speaker advised the Committee at the hearing that whilst he recognised the definite need for such support, unfortunately within the budgetary constraints there was not funding to cover such costs.

2.2 Parliamentary Committee System

The Committee also notes that additional funding has been provided for the Parliamentary Committee system which has been recently restructured as a result of the *Parliamentary Committees Act 1995* and the *Parliamentary Committees Legislation Amendment Act 1996*.

At the hearing the Committee was reminded that this increase in expenditure was mainly due to the fact that it was the first year for which all committees of the Committee Office had been fully budgeted. The Committee was also advised that additional resources have been given to the Parliamentary Criminal Justice Committee and, as a result of a request by the Scrutiny of Legislation Committee, there has been a recent advertisement for a casual position at the AO4 level.

2.3 Review of the *Members' Salaries, Allowances and Services Handbook*

At the hearing the Speaker elaborated on his plans to co-ordinate a review of the *Members' Salaries, Allowances and Services Handbook* with a view to achieving administrative efficiencies.

Questioning of the Speaker and other Parliamentary Service officers revealed that this review is to be carried out by officers of the Parliamentary Service and the Premier's Department under the direction of the Speaker. The Speaker informed the Committee that he intends to make the Handbook more user-friendly for both Members and Parliamentary staff who are required to administer the Handbook, and to allow increased flexibility without increasing the cost to Parliament but while continuing to comply with necessary controls and scrutiny. The Committee was further advised that the review would be commenced within the short term and completed around February/March 1997.

3. PARLIAMENTARY SERVICES PROGRAM

3.1 Office of the Speaker

Details of the increase in the budget for the Office of the Speaker were provided to the Committee in the answers to Questions on Notice and in response to questioning at the hearing.

In relation to the increase in expenditure for gifts, the Speaker explained that it was not envisaged that this expenditure would be on an on-going basis every year but significant purchases to restock gifts for visiting dignitaries would occur every so often.

3.2 Parliamentary Library

At the hearing the Committee was assured that the Library has, for some time, been working on a program to make the Library more user-friendly for Members to directly access information. This program was explained as having two faces so that whilst the Library has the software available to access its databases, the program is also dependent upon the structure of the information technology. In this regard the Committee was informed that the expected delivery of a Windows program for the Parl-Airs system would hopefully assist.

The Committee was also reminded that the Library is dependent upon the training of Members and their access to the system either through modems from their offices or within the Parliament, and that this is currently being addressed with considerable benefits expected within the next six months or so.

3.3 Education and Protocol

In response to a Question on Notice, the Committee was further informed as to the Parliamentary Internship Program which aims to give university students first hand appreciation of the relationship between political practice and theory and an in-depth understanding of the political processes and the role of Parliament, and the opportunity to obtain relevant research experience in a new environment.

The Program has been implemented as a pilot scheme in Semester 2 1996 and a review will be conducted towards the end of the financial year to ascertain whether it has achieved its objectives and whether changes to the scheme's structure and administration are necessary.

The Committee notes that \$1,000 has been allocated for the financial year 1996/97 to meet operational and management costs associated with the scheme and that no additional staff have been employed by the Parliament for its administration. The Committee further notes that costs associated with administrative support provided by Parliamentary supervisors is met within the budgets of those respective supervisors.

3.4 Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

In relation to the increase in expenditure budgeted for the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, at the hearing the Committee was advised that a group of UK Members will be visiting the Queensland Parliament in a couple of weeks time and it is anticipated that a Canadian delegation may also visit during the financial year. The Committee was further informed that the Parliament meets accommodation, food and some entertainment costs for visiting members.

4. CORPORATE SERVICES AND MEMBERS' SUPPORT

4.1 Information Technology Services

In addition to the Information Technology for electorate offices already noted, the Committee obtained further information as to improved access to information technology as a long term strategic issue in an answer to a Question on Notice. In this regard, the Committee notes the following initiatives:

- Corporate information is to be centralised to reduce duplication and electronically published from a central point so that all users enjoy access to the identical and latest information. The Committee was advised that an example of this is the Parliamentary Intranet service which publishes the Members' database and various other pieces of corporate information.
- Electronic access facilities are to be extended and strengthened. In this regard electorate offices will be connected to the Parliamentary computer network to exchange E-mail.
- Internet access is available to the Parliamentary Library and some other key areas which provide information to Members.
- Upon the conclusion of the software upgrades in the electorate offices, estimated to be by early 1997, worldwide Internet E-mail facilities should be available at these sites.
- Service providers are being consulted with respect to the publishing of Parliamentary information on the Internet.

4.2 Property Services

At the hearing the Committee was assured that savings and benefits are anticipated as a result of the introduction of a new computerised stock and inventory system.

The Committee also sought further information as to the stone restoration project for Parliament House. The Speaker reiterated at the hearing his desire to restore the House so that it can be preserved at the highest possible standard for future generations. In this regard he advised that a high priority had been placed on the stone restoration program and that in 1996/97 the program would receive funds previously allocated to televising of Parliament. (see para 5.3)

In relation to the Physical Assets Strategic Plan for the Parliamentary precinct, the Committee was advised that there were recurrent costs associated with maintenance, replacement and upgrades to infrastructure assets in Parliament House and the Parliamentary Annexe. At the hearing the Speaker advised the Committee that within the next few months he would be writing to the Treasurer with a proposal to ensure that the accommodation needs of the Parliament, as outlined under this Plan, are met. The Speaker further advised that due to its age, the Annexe was in need of some upgrade and that investigations as to the necessary work to be done in this regard were being conducted.

4.3 Parliamentary Catering Division

At the hearing, the Speaker confirmed his belief that the Parliament should not privatise or outsource the services provided by the Parliamentary Catering Division and stated that he did not anticipate any reduction in the areas in which the Division is trading.

4.4 Security

Proposed security measures to be introduced into Parliament House, their impact on Members and likely cost for 1996/97 was also canvassed at the hearing. In this regard the Speaker voiced the need for a security upgrade, and advised that numerous inquiries in order to develop a contingency plan had been undertaken. This included consideration of the introduction of x-ray scanning equipment, similar to that used in airports and other parliaments, at a cost in the vicinity of \$40,000. The Committee was further assured that such security upgrades would not significantly impact on Members or their families who are all well known to security staff.

5. GENERAL COMMENTS

5.1 Staffing

The Committee noted slight increases in provision for the number of Parliamentary staff and queried the Speaker as to how many of those staff represented electorate staff and how many Members of Parliament had more than one full time equivalent electorate staff member. In answer to a question taken on notice at the hearing, the Committee was informed that the full time equivalent staffing figure for electorate staff is 102.75 which includes 84 Members who are provided with one electorate officer position, 5 Members who are provided with two electorate officer positions (these 5 Members being those who represent electorates in excess of 100,000 square kilometres) and the balance of 8.75 representing a conversion of the funding for the provision of relief electorate officers to a full time equivalent figure.

At the hearing the Committee was also advised as to the eligibility criteria for a member of the Parliamentary Service obtaining a voluntary redundancy and later informed that the total sum of money paid out for voluntary employment redundancies in 1995/96 was \$248,815.26.

5.2 Opposition Budget

During questioning the Committee raised the issue of the Opposition budget being in part administered by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and part administered through Parliament. The Speaker responded by stating that he is aware of the issue and that this situation is currently being reviewed.

5.3 Televising of Parliament

At the hearing the Committee was informed in some detail as to the background of the proposed funding of \$354,000 in the 1995/96 budget, for the televising of Parliament initiative.

The Committee notes that the outcome of discussions concerning this initiative was that in April 1996 it was decided that the broadcasting of Parliament would continue only using facilities in place at the moment and the savings realised under that initiative would be available in 1996/97 for the stone restoration program. The Speaker further advised that negotiations are still continuing regarding the on-going costs associated with the initiative.

The Speaker also advised the Committee that he believes in the “user pays” philosophy and that television crews are allowed into Parliament and up in the gallery to televise Parliament as they wish, and are doing so at the present moment on a user pays basis under the conditions and guidelines that have been set down.

6. CONCLUSION

6.1 Appropriation (Parliament) No. 2 Bill 1996

The Committee acknowledges the importance of the appropriation for the Parliament being contained in a separate Bill, thus ensuring the separation and independence of the Parliament from the Executive. In this regard the Committee also notes the Speaker’s comments that throughout the 1996/97 budget development process, discussions concerning funding for the Parliament were conducted in a positive and constructive manner with appropriate recognition of the principles underpinning the separate Appropriation Bill currently before the Parliament.

The Committee believes that Parliament’s independent administration of its own affairs should be continued.

6.2 The Estimates Committee Process

The adoption of the recommendations made by the Select Committee on Procedural Review as to the Estimates Committee process, has seen significant changes to the 1996 Estimates process. The Committee believes that the changes have resulted in improvements in the overall information provided to the Estimates Committees and allowed them to conduct a more detailed consideration of the proposed expenditure for the organisational units referred to it. In particular the Committee believes that the provision of answers to Questions on Notice prior to the hearing enhances information available to each particular Estimates Committee.

The Committee also believes that the abolition of strict questioning time limits at the hearing has enabled Committee Members to better question the Speaker and Ministers as to proposed expenditure.

However, the Committee has noted during the Estimates process that a number of issues should be further examined including:

- the appearance of witnesses at Committee hearings;
- the number of Questions on Notice;
- the process of taking questions on notice during the Committee hearing; and
- the allocation of time between the introduction of the budget and the consideration of the Appropriation Bills at the Committee stage.

6.3 Acknowledgment

The Committee appreciates the co-operation afforded to it by the Speaker and officers of the Parliamentary Service. The Committee also thanks the officers on their preparation and the provision of full and frank answers to Questions on Notice and questions taken on notice at the hearing.

The Committee has agreed to the proposed expenditure referred to it, without amendment.

7. RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends that the proposed expenditure be agreed to.

Robert Harper MLA
Chairman

8. STATEMENT OF RESERVATIONS BY NON-GOVERNMENT MEMBERS

8.1 Legislative Assembly

8.1.1 Televising of Parliament

Non-Government Members would view with the utmost concern any attempt to make savings at the expense of this important program which we consider to be essential to maintaining an accountable Parliament.

9. MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

9.1 Minutes of Meeting held 11 September 1996

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE A

Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 September 1996 at 1.10 pm in Room 18.11 Parliamentary Annexe, Brisbane

- 1. Present:** Mr Peter Beattie MLA
Mr Allan Grice MLA (until 1.32pm)
Mr Bob Harper MLA
Ms Judy Spence MLA
Mr Lawrence Springborg MLA
- In Attendance:** Ms Kerry Newton, Research Director
Ms Sandy Rowse, Research Officer
- Apologies:** Hon David Hamill MLA

2. Election of Chairperson

By leave of the Committee, the Research Director called for nominations for the position of Chairman.

Mr Bob Harper was nominated by Mr Springborg and seconded by Mr Grice.

There being no further nominations, Mr Harper was declared elected and took the Chair.

Election of Deputy Chairperson

The Chairman called for nominations for the position of Deputy Chairman.

Mr Beattie was nominated by Ms Spence and seconded by Mr Grice.

There being no further nominations, Mr Beattie was declared elected.

3. Questions on Notice

Mr Beattie tabled nine Questions on Notice and stated that they were to be generic questions of each of the Ministers and the Speaker. He further advised that another question would be provided to the Research Director later in the day.

Afternoon Tea	4.00pm - 4.15pm	
Treasurer	4.15pm - 6.00pm	(1 hour, 45 mins)
Economic Devel. and Trade	6.00pm - 7.30pm	(1 hour, 30 mins)

On the motion of Ms Spence, seconded by Mr Springborg, it was further resolved that:

- During the time allocated for the Legislative Assembly and each Department, the non-Government Members would question first and that attempts would be made for questioning to be program by program;
- The Speaker and the each of the Ministers be permitted to make an introductory statement of no longer than 2 minutes;
- Government Owned Corporations be questioned as appropriate and that they not necessarily be questioned at any particular time within the time allocated for the relevant Department;
- At any one time during the hearing, only one Member of the Committee be absent; and
- If the time allocated for the Legislative Assembly or a Department is not substantially filled during the hearing, the Committee suspend until the starting time for the next period.

5. General Business

Witnesses at the Hearing

Mr Beattie tabled a list of names, positions and Departments of senior officials that the non-Government Members wish to be present at the hearing.

On the motion of Ms Spence, seconded by Mr Springborg, it was resolved that:

- That list of witnesses be agreed to and sent to the relevant contact officers for the Legislative Assembly and the Departments;
- By 5.00 pm on even date Members would notify the research staff of any areas of possible interest to be pursued and any other particular requests and expectations concerning Government Owned Corporations (in order for them to advise Departments to be prepared), and any other briefing material required; and
- In accordance with paragraph 9 of the Procedures for Witnesses Appearing before Parliamentary Committees agreed to by the Legislative Assembly on 31 May 1994, any deliberation of the Chairman's rulings be conducted in private.

On the motion of Ms Spence, seconded by Mr Springborg, it was further resolved that in accordance with Sessional Orders 17(4) and 18(4) at the hearing the Committee automatically grant leave to any non-Committee Member who wishes to question either the Speaker, a Minister or a public official.

9.2 Minutes of Meeting held 12 September 1996**ESTIMATES COMMITTEE A****Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 September 1996
at 12.54 pm in Room B.21
Parliament House, Brisbane**

- 1. Present:** Mr Bob Harper MLA (Chairman)
Mr Peter Beattie MLA (Deputy Chairman)
Mr Allan Grice MLA
Hon David Hamill MLA
Ms Judy Spence MLA
Mr Lawrence Springborg MLA
- In Attendance:** Ms Kerryn Newton, Research Director
Ms Sandy Rowse, Research Officer

2. Order/Allocation of Times

The Chairman noted the amendments to the Sessional Orders of even date and provided Members with a list of the Order/Allocation of Times for the hearing as discussed at the Committee's prior meeting.

Agreed that the relevant persons be advised of those times.

3. Televising of Hearing

On the motion of Mr Grice, seconded by Mr Springborg, it was moved that:

Having in mind the need to preserve the integrity of public servants, television film coverage of the Estimates Committee A be allowed for the Chairman's opening comments, Mr Speaker's and each Minister's opening comments, and that at other times audio coverage be allowed.

On the motion of Mr Beattie, seconded by Hon Hamill, it was moved that:

That motion be amended so that the proceedings be open to television and broadcast to television stations in accordance with the rules governing the televising of Parliament to ensure that the people of Queensland are informed on matters of public interest.

Ayes - Mr Beattie, Hon Hamill and Ms Spence
Noes - Mr Harper, Mr Grice and Mr Springborg

The votes being equal the Chairman exercised his casting vote against the amendment to the motion.

In relation to the original motion:

Ayes - Mr Harper, Mr Grice and Mr Springborg
Noes - Mr Beattie, Hon Hamill and Ms Spence

The votes being equal the Chairman exercised his casting vote in favour of the motion.

Motion Carried.

4. Questions on Notice

The Chairman noted that subsequent to yesterday's meeting, the non-Government Members supplied the Research Director with additional and replacement Questions on Notice. He asked that it be noted that the Government Members were satisfied with those questions.

Mr Beattie also asked that it be noted that the non-Government Members were satisfied with the Government Members' Questions on Notice.

5. Answers to Questions on Notice

The Chairman advised that the Clerk had confirmed that the Committee could not resolve to release answers to Questions on Notice before they had been presented or submitted to the Committee.

6. Schedule of Meeting Dates

The Chairman circulated to Members a proposed schedule of meeting dates.

Discussion ensued.

7. Next Meeting

Agreed that the Committee would meet on 17 September 1996 at 8.45 am in Room B.27 of Parliament House.

9.3 Minutes of Meeting held 17 September 1996**ESTIMATES COMMITTEE A****Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 September 1996
at 8.47 am in Room B.27
Parliament House, Brisbane**

- 1. Present:** Mr Bob Harper MLA (Chairman)
Mr Peter Beattie MLA (Deputy Chairman)
Mr Allan Grice MLA
Hon David Hamill MLA
Ms Judy Spence MLA
Mr Lawrence Springborg MLA

In Attendance: Ms Kerry Newton, Research Director
Ms Sandy Rowse, Research Officer

2. Confirmation of Minutes

On the motion of Hon David Hamill, seconded by Mr Allan Grice it was resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 11 September 1996 be confirmed.

On the motion of Hon David Hamill, seconded by Mr Allan Grice it was resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 12 September 1996 be confirmed.

3. Release of Answers to Questions on Notice

On the motion of Mr Peter Beattie, seconded by Mr Lawrence Springborg it was resolved:

That pursuant to s.4(2) of the *Parliamentary Papers Act 1992*, the Committee authorise the publication of all answers received to the Committee's Questions on Notice.

4. Material Received at the Hearing

Agreed that any material handed to the Committee during the hearing would be tabled as Additional Information to the Committee's Reports, rather than incorporated into Hansard.

5. Witnesses

The Research Director informed the Committee that notification had been received from the Treasury Department that some invited witnesses were unable to attend but that the Deputy Chairman had been advised accordingly by two separate written memorandums.

The Committee discussed the issue of witnesses appearing before the Committee's hearing to answer questions.

The Committee also noted that the Ombudsman may not be able to attend the hearing due to an illness in the family.

On the motion of Mr Peter Beattie, seconded by Mr Allan Grice, it was resolved:

- that the Committee excuse the Ombudsman from attending the hearing due to an illness in the family.
- the Committee note that with the exception of the witnesses referred to above, the Committee had been advised that all witnesses invited to attend the hearing would be attending.

6. Next Meeting

To be held on even date at 7.30 pm, or at the conclusion of the hearing, in Room B.27.

7. Adjournment

There being no further business, the Committee adjourned at 8.56 am.

Confirmed this

day of

1996.

Chairman

9.4 Minutes of Proceedings held 17 September 1996**ESTIMATES COMMITTEE A****Minutes of the Hearing for Estimates Committee A
held at 9.00 am on 17 September 1996 in the
Legislative Council Chamber, Parliament House, Brisbane****1. Meeting**

The Committee met in public session at 9.00 am.

The following members of the Committee were present:

Mr Bob Harper MLA (Chairman)
Mr Peter Beattie MLA (Deputy Chairman)
Mr Allan Grice MLA
Hon David Hamill MLA
Ms Judy Spence MLA
Mr Lawrence Springborg MLA

2. Statement by the Chairman

The Chairman made an introductory statement concerning the Committee's consideration of proposed expenditure contained in the *Appropriation (Parliament) Bill No. 2 1996* and the *Appropriation Bill No. 2 1996* for the areas designated to it in the Sessional Orders dated 3 September 1996.

3. Examination of Estimates**Legislative Assembly**

In attendance was the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, the Honourable N J Turner MLA, accompanied by the following officers:

Mr R Doyle	Clerk of the Parliament
Mr I Thompson	Clerk Assistant (Table) and Sergeant at Arms
Mr N Laurie	Acting Sub-Program Manager, Committee Office
Mr R Bannenberg	Parliamentary Librarian
Mr R Fick	Director, Corporate Services
Mr M Hickey	Manager, Finance
Mr P Morris	Manager, Human Resource Management

The Committee examined the witnesses.

The Committee concluded its examination and the witnesses withdrew.

Office of the Governor

In attendance was the Honourable R E Borbidge MLA, Premier, accompanied by the following officers:

Mr J O'Connor	Official Secretary
Mr S Blinkhorn	Executive Officer

The Committee examined the witnesses.

The Committee concluded its examination and the witnesses withdrew.

Parliamentary Commissioner for Administrative Investigations

In attendance was the Honourable R E Borbidge MLA, Premier, accompanied by the following officers:

Mr F Albietz	Commissioner
Mr B Ganly	Acting Director, Corporate and Research
Mr M Schafer	Director, Corporate and Research

The Committee examined the witnesses.

The Committee concluded its examination and the witnesses withdrew.

Queensland Audit Office

In attendance was the Honourable R E Borbidge MLA, Premier, accompanied by the following officers:

Mr B Rollason	Auditor-General
Ms J England	Assistant Auditor-General
Mr K Alcock	Manager, Finance and Administration

The Committee examined the witnesses.

The Committee concluded its examination and the witnesses withdrew.

Suspension of Sitting

The sitting was suspended at 11.10 am.

Resumption of Sitting

The Committee resumed at 11.25 am.

Department of the Premier and Cabinet

In attendance was the Honourable R E Borbidge MLA, Premier, accompanied by the following officers:

Mr P Ellis	Director-General
Mr J Sosso	Acting Deputy Director-General
Mr E Bigby	Acting Executive Director, Government and Executive Services
Ms S Webbe	Acting Director, State Affairs
Mr T Leighton	Director, Finance Services
Mr I Clague	Acting Executive Director, State Development
Mr K Wolff	Director-General, Office of the Public Service

The Committee examined the witnesses.

The Committee concluded its examination and the witnesses withdrew.

Suspension of Sitting

The sitting was suspended at 1.27 pm.

Resumption of Sitting

The Committee resumed at 2.55 pm.

Treasury Department

In attendance was the Honourable J M Sheldon MLA, Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for the Arts, accompanied by the following officers:

Dr D McTaggart	Under Treasurer
Mr M Gray	Deputy Under Treasurer
Mr G Poole	Assistant Under Treasurer
Mr G Andrews	Executive Director, Office of Arts and Cultural Development
Ms M Jackson	Executive Director, Office of Women's Affairs
Dr A Batholomai	Director, Queensland Museum
Mr Tony Gould	Director, Queensland Performing Arts Trust
Mr D Hall	Director, Queensland Art Gallery
Mr D Stephens	State Librarian, State Library of Queensland
Mr G Waite	Director, Finance Directorate
Mr D Balwin	Manager, Ministerial and Accounting Services

The Committee examined the witnesses.

Suspension of Sitting

The sitting was suspended at 4.05 pm.

Resumption of Sitting

The Committee resumed at 4.15 pm.

The Committee continued its examination of the witnesses.

The Honourable M J Foley MLA, by leave, also asked questions.

The Committee concluded its examination and the witnesses withdrew.

Suspension of Sitting

The sitting was suspended at 6.03 pm.

Resumption of Sitting

The Committee resumed at 6.08 pm.

Department of Economic Development and Trade

In attendance was the Hon D J Slack, MLA, Minister for Economic Development and Trade and Minister Assisting the Premier, accompanied by the following officers:

Mr T Krimmer	Director-General
Mr J Carroll	Deputy Director-General
Mrs J Bimrose	Acting Executive Director, Project and Investment Development Division
Mr R Anderson	Acting Executive Director, International Trade Development Division
Mr N Brown	Acting Executive Director, Development Planning Division
Mr T Leighton	Director, Financial Services Branch, Department of the Premier and Cabinet
Mr M Goodman	Management Accountant, Financial Services Branch, Department of the Premier and Cabinet

The Committee examined the witnesses.

The Committee concluded its examination and the witnesses withdrew.

9.5 Minutes of Meeting held 17 September 1996

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE A

Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 September 1996 at 11.52 am in Room B.27 Parliament House, Brisbane

- 1. Present:** Mr Bob Harper MLA (Chairman)
Mr Peter Beattie MLA (Deputy Chairman)
Mr Allan Grice MLA
Hon David Hamill MLA
Ms Judy Spence MLA
Mr Lawrence Springborg MLA

In Attendance: Ms Kerry Newton, Research Director

2. Non-Attendance of Witness at the Public Hearing

(The Committee adjourned for private deliberation during the public hearing to consider the non-attendance of a witness, namely Ms Wendy Armstrong, from the Department of the Premier and Cabinet.)

It was noted by the Committee that Ms Armstrong had been invited to attend the public hearing by the Committee on 11 September 1996 and that a facsimile from the Department of the Premier and Cabinet dated 16 September 1996 and showing as received at the Committee's Secretariat at 3.23 pm, indicated that Ms Armstrong would be attending the hearing of Estimates Committee A on even date.

On the motion of Hon Hamill, seconded by Mr Beattie, it was moved:

That the Committee express its extreme displeasure at the failure of the appearance of Ms Wendy Armstrong, Acting Principal Executive Coordinator of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, and further note the advice from the Premier as to which officers would be present and that the Committee had invited her to attend the hearing.

Ayes - Mr Beattie, Hon Hamill, Ms Spence
Noes - Mr Harper, Mr Grice, Mr Springborg

The votes being equal, the Chairman exercised his casting vote against the motion.

Mr Beattie also expressed his concern at the Premier intervening in the invitation of Ms Armstrong as a witness to the Committee's hearing.

9.6 Minutes of Meeting held 17 September 1996**ESTIMATES COMMITTEE A****Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 September 1996
at 7.26 pm in Room B.27
Parliament House, Brisbane**

- 1. Present:** Mr Bob Harper MLA (Chairman)
Mr Peter Beattie MLA (Deputy Chairman)
Mr Allan Grice MLA
Hon David Hamill MLA
Ms Judy Spence MLA
Mr Lawrence Springborg MLA

In Attendance: Ms Kerry Newton, Research Director
Ms Sandy Rowse, Research Officer

2. Authorisation of Publication

On the motion of Mr Peter Beattie, seconded by Mr Allan Grice it was resolved:

That pursuant to s.4(2) of the *Parliamentary Papers Act 1992*, the Committee authorise the publication of all documents presented to it in the course of its hearing.

3. Next Meeting

The Members discussed their availability to next meet.

Agreed that Members would advise the research staff of their availability as to the next Committee meeting.

Agreed that the research staff would send a confidential draft report to Members prior to the next Committee meeting to enable Members to peruse the report.

4. Acknowledgment to the Chairman

The Members noted their appreciation to the Chairman for the manner in which he conducted the hearing.

9.7 Minutes of Meeting held 26 September 1996**ESTIMATES COMMITTEE A****Minutes of the Meeting held on 26 September 1996
at 9.32 am in Room 18.11
Parliamentary Annexe, Brisbane**

- 1. Present:** Mr Bob Harper MLA (Chairman)
Mr Peter Beattie MLA (Deputy Chairman)
Mr Allan Grice MLA
Hon David Hamill MLA
Ms Judy Spence MLA
Mr Lawrence Springborg MLA

In Attendance: Ms Kerry Newton, Research Director
Ms Sandy Rowse, Research Officer

2. Confirmation of Minutes

On the motion of Hon David Hamill, seconded by Mr Allan Grice, it was resolved:

That the minutes of the meetings held on 17 September 1996 at 8.47 am, 11.52 am and 7.26 pm and the minutes of proceedings held on 17 September 1996 at 9.00 am, be confirmed.

3. Release of Answers to Questions Taken on Notice

On the motion of Mr Peter Beattie, seconded by Mr Lawrence Springborg, it was resolved:

That pursuant to s.4(2) of the *Parliamentary Papers Act 1992*, the Committee authorise the publication of all written replies and other documents forwarded to it.

4. Tabling of Chairman's Draft Reports

The Chairman tabled his Draft Reports Nos 1 and 2, copies of which were circulated to Members.

Discussion ensued regarding amendments to those draft reports.

Mr Beattie indicated on behalf of non-Government Members that a Statement of Reservations would be submitted by Tuesday 2 October 1996.

9.8 Minutes of Meeting held 26 September 1996**ESTIMATES COMMITTEE A****Minutes of the Meeting held on 26 September 1996
at 11.30 am in Room 18.11
Parliamentary Annexe, Brisbane**

- 1. Present:** Mr Bob Harper MLA (Chairman)
Mr Peter Beattie MLA (Deputy Chairman)
Mr Allan Grice MLA
Hon David Hamill MLA
Ms Judy Spence MLA
Mr Lawrence Springborg MLA

In Attendance: Ms Kerry Newton, Research Director
Ms Sandy Rowse, Research Officer

2. Confirmation of Minutes

On the motion of Mr Peter Beattie, seconded by Ms Judy Spence, it was resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on even date at 9.32 am be confirmed.

3. Consideration of Chairman's Draft Reports

The Committee proceeded to the consideration of the Chairman's Draft Reports Nos 1 and 2 in relation to estimates of expenditure referred to the Committee pursuant to Sessional Orders dated 3 September 1996.

On the motion of Mr Lawrence Springborg, seconded by Ms Judy Spence, it was resolved:

That, in relation to the Legislative Assembly, the proposed expenditures be agreed to and that the Chairman's Draft Report No. 1, as amended, be adopted as the report of the Committee and be tabled by the Chairman on 8 October 1996, together with the Additional Information.

On the motion of Mr Allan Grice, seconded by Hon David Hamill, it was resolved:

That, in relation to the Office of the Governor, Parliamentary Commissioner for Administrative Investigations, Queensland Audit Office, Department of the Premier and Cabinet, Department of Economic Development and Trade and the Treasury Department, the proposed expenditures be agreed to and that the Chairman's Draft Report No. 2, as amended, be adopted as the report of the Committee and be tabled by the Chairman on 8 October 1996 together with the Additional Information.

