



Estimates Committee A

2010

Report No. 1 to the Legislative Assembly

Introduction

The Legislative Assembly appointed Estimates Committee A on 20 May 2010, in accordance with Standing Order 167(3), to investigate and report on the proposed expenditure contained in the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2010.¹

On 13 July 2010, the committee conducted a public hearing to take evidence about the budget estimates from Mr Speaker and his advisors. A verbatim transcript of the committee's hearing can be accessed at:

http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/view/legislativeAssembly/hansard/documents/2010.pdf/2010_07_13_EST_A.pdf.

Prior to the public hearing, the committee provided Mr Speaker with twenty questions on notice about the estimates for his portfolio. Mr Speaker provided responses to all the committee's questions.

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

- Budget papers;
- Answers to pre-hearing questions on notice;
- Evidence taken at the hearing; and
- Additional information given in relation to answers.

Mr Speaker's responses to the committee's pre-hearing questions together with the minutes of the committee's meetings are included in a volume of additional information tabled with this report.

Legislative Assembly and the Parliamentary Service

The Legislative Assembly of Queensland consists of 89 Members who discharge a range of important legislative and constituency responsibilities. The Parliamentary Service established in accordance with the *Parliamentary Service Act 1988* provides administrative and support services to the Legislative Assembly.

The following table taken from the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2010 compares the appropriations for the Legislative Assembly for 2009-10 and 2010-11.

Appropriations	2009-10 \$'000	2010-11 \$'000
<i>Controlled Items</i>		
Departmental Outputs	71,221	74,384
Equity Adjustments	(2,597)	(4,139)
<i>Administered Items</i>	0	0
Vote	68,624	70,254

Source: Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2010, p.6.

Budgeted capital expenditure for 2010-11 is \$2.6 million.²

Budget highlights

According to the Service Delivery Statements, the budget highlights for the Legislative Assembly for 2010-11 include:

- Commencing the implementation of a range of recommendations arising from a strategic review of parliamentary buildings and the *Parliament House Conservation Plan*;
- Expansion of the broadcast of Parliamentary proceedings to include on-call access to archived footage;
- Commencement of a program to replace the existing Parliamentary Library database;
- Replacement of electorate office computer equipment and upgraded internet bandwidth;
- Ongoing replacement of various airconditioning units in the Parliamentary precinct;
- The redevelopment of the Parliament's internet site.

Issues raised at the public hearing

Issues the committee raised with Mr Speaker at the hearing on 13 July 2010 include:

- Parliament's engagement with the community of Queensland, and the ability of Queenslanders to freely, safely and confidently raise issues with their member of parliament;

¹ As the committee was required to report on other portfolios in accordance with Standing Order 186(2), the committee is reporting separately on the proposed expenditure for the Legislative Assembly.

² *State Budget 2010-11, Capital Statement – Budget Paper No.3*, p. 98.

- The level of compliance which should be adhered to by ministers in answering questions on notice;
- Parliament's current holdings from the Art Gallery and how the collection is being preserved and expanded;
- The electorate office security upgrade program and associated training;
- Strategies of engaging with young Queenslanders to learn more about the role and functions of Parliament;
- The progress of the stonework restoration program;
- Services the Parliamentary Service provides to other agencies as part of the Shared Service Initiative;
- The status of the Integrity Commissioner;
- What increased security measures have been implemented or upgraded in the parliamentary precinct or are intended to be;
- The recent Parliament open day on 22 May 2010 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the first sitting of the Parliament.

Recommendation

The committee recommends that the proposed expenditure, as detailed in the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2010, be agreed to without amendment.



Simon Finn MP
Chair

July 2010

Committee Members

Chair

Mr Simon Finn MP
Member for Yeerongpilly

Other Members

Mr John-Paul Langbroek MP (Deputy Chair)
Member for Surfers Paradise

Mr Michael Choi MP
Member for Capalaba

Mr Paul Hoolihan MP
Member for Keppel

Mr Tim Nicholls MP
Member for Clayfield

Mrs Jann Stuckey MP
Member for Currumbin

Mr Wayne Wendt MP
Member for Ipswich West

Secretariat

Mrs Ali Jarro (Research Director)
Ms Tamara Vitale (Executive Assistant)