



# **Annual Report**

## **2014-15**

**Report No. 5, 55<sup>th</sup> Parliament**  
**Utilities, Science and Innovation Committee**  
**2015**

## Utilities, Science and Innovation Committee

<b>Chair</b>	Mr Shane King MP, Member for Kallangur
<b>Deputy Chair</b>	Mr Robert Molhoek MP, Member for Southport
<b>Members</b>	Mr Don Brown MP, Member for Capalaba Mr Jason Costigan MP, Member for Whitsunday Mr Dale Last MP, Member for Burdekin Mr Chris Whiting MP, Member for Murrumba
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## 1 Utilities, Science and Innovation Committee

The Utilities, Science and Innovation Committee was established on 27 March 2015 as a portfolio committee of the Queensland Legislative Assembly.

Section 92 of the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001* outlines the main responsibilities of a portfolio committee. In relation to its portfolio area, a Committee may—

- consider Appropriation Bills
- consider other legislation and proposed legislation
- perform its role in relation to public accounts and public works.

Schedule 6 of the *Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Assembly* sets out the Committee's portfolio responsibilities as follows:

- Main Roads, Road Safety, Ports, Energy and Water Supply
- Housing and Public Works
- Science, Information Technology and, Innovation.

## 2 Annual report

In accordance with section 108 of the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*, the Committee is required to table an annual report within 4 months and 14 days after the end of each financial year. The report must include:

- a list of meetings of the Committee and the names of members attending or absent from each meeting
- a summary of issues considered by the Committee, including a description of the more significant issues arising from the considerations
- a statement of the Committee's revenue and spending for the year
- a brief description of responses by Ministers to recommendations of the Committee.

This report provides a summary of the activities of the Committee from 27 March 2015 to 30 June 2015.

## 3 Inquiries and Reports

The Committee is considering the Auditor-General's Report No. 14:2012-13 Maintenance of water infrastructure assets and has tabled two reports on subordinate legislation during the 2014-2015 financial year. The Committee's activities and reports are discussed below.

Copies of the Committee's publications are available from the Committee's webpage: [www.parliament.qld.gov.au/usic](http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/usic).

The Committee has received private briefings from Departments and agencies on its portfolio responsibilities including:

- Department of Energy and Water Supply on 20 May 2015
- Department of Science, Information Technology and Innovation on 20 May 2015
- Department of Transport and Main Roads on 3 June 2015
- Department of Housing and Public Works on 3 June 2015.

### 3.1 Auditor-General Report No. 14: 2012-13 Maintenance of water infrastructure assets

On 5 May 2015, the Committee of the Legislative Assembly referred the Queensland Audit Office Report No. 14:2012-13: Maintenance of water infrastructure assets to the Committee for consideration. The Report had previously been referred to the former State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee for its consideration. That Committee was in the process of undertaking an Inquiry on the issues covered by the Report when the 54th Parliament was dissolved.

The Queensland Audit Office report examines whether the South East Queensland Water Grid assets, namely the Gold Coast Desalination Plant and Western Corridor Recycled Water Scheme, are being managed and maintained effectively to contribute to a secure and sustainable water supply.

The Auditor-General evaluates whether the strategies for the grid meet the Government's objectives and whether there is adequate monitoring and reporting on its performance.

The report also reviews the systems for long term water asset maintenance and looks in detail at the cost effectiveness of the two manufactured water assets.

As part of their consideration of the Auditor-General Report No. 14:2012-13, the Committee:

- sought written advice from Seqwater on their progress in relation to the implementation of the recommendations made by the Auditor-General in Report No.14 2012:13
- were briefed in private by the Queensland Audit Office on the report
- undertook site visits to Seqwater's Gold Coast Desalination Plant and Bundamba Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The Committee expects to table its report on the Auditor-General Report No. 14:2012-13 in late 2015.

### 3.2 Subordinate legislation

The Committee examined several pieces of subordinate legislation in accordance with its responsibility under section 93(1) of the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*, in particular the Committee considered:

- the policy to be given effect by the legislation
- the application of fundamental legislative principles to the legislation
- for subordinate legislation - its lawfulness.

#### 3.2.1 Subordinate legislation tabled between 14 October 2014 and 25 November 2014 (Report No. 1)

On 6 June 2014, the Committee tabled Report No. 1: Subordinate legislation tabled between 14 October 2014 and 25 November 2014. The report advised of the Committee's findings with respect to the following subordinate legislation, tabled on 14 October 2014:

- Water Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2014 (SL No. 231)
- Queensland Building and Construction Commission Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2014 (SL No. 233).

The Committee examined the following subordinate legislation, tabled on 25 November 2014:

- Proclamation made under the *Professional Engineers and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2014* (SL No. 254)
- Building and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No.1) 2014 (SL No. 255)
- Building (Transitional) Regulation 2014 (SL No. 256)
- Plumbing and Drainage (Transitional) Regulation 2014 (SL No. 257)

- Queensland Building and Construction Commission (Transfer) Regulation 2014 (SL No. 258)
- Transport Operations (Marine Safety - Examining and Training Program Approvals (Recreational Ships and Personal Watercraft)) Amendment Standard (No.1) 2014 (SL No. 262)

The Committee did not identify any significant policy issues or issues relating to fundamental legislative principles in the subordinate legislation examined.

### **3.2.2 Subordinate legislation tabled between 26 November 2014 and 5 May 2015 (Report No. 2)**

On 5 June 2014, the Committee tabled Report No. 2: Subordinate legislation tabled between 26 November 2014 and 5 May 2015. The report advised of the Committee's findings with respect to the following subordinate legislation, tabled 26 March 2015:

- Proclamation - *Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2014* (SL No. 278)
- Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No.3) 2014 (SL No. 279)
- Building Amendment Regulation (No.3) 2014 (SL No. 293)
- Proclamation - *Queensland Building and Construction Commission and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2014* (SL No. 308)
- Queensland Building and Construction Commission and Another Regulation Amendment Regulation (No.1) 2014 (SL No. 309)
- Proclamation - *Building and Construction Industry Payments Amendment Act 2014* (SL No. 310)
- Building and Construction Industry Payments Amendment Regulation (No.1) 2014 (SL No. 311)
- Transport Operations (Road Use Management – Driver Licensing) and Another Regulation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2014 (SL No. 324)
- Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 4) 2014 (SL No. 325)
- Proclamation - *Electricity Competition and Protection Legislation Amendment Act 2014* (SL No. 335)
- Proclamation - National Energy Retail Law (Queensland) Act 2014 (SL No. 336)
- Electricity – National Scheme (Queensland) Regulation 2014 (SL No. 337)
- National Energy Retail Law (Consequential Amendments) Regulation 2014 (SL No. 338)
- National Energy Retail Law (Queensland) Regulation 2014 (SL No. 339)
- National Gas (Queensland) Regulation 2014 (SL No. 340)
- Housing Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2014 (SL No. 341)
- Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2014 (SL No. 342).

The Committee examined the following subordinate legislation, tabled on 5 May 2015:

- Traffic Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2015 (SL No. 13)
- Transport Operations (Road Use Management-Vehicle Standards and Safety) Amendment Regulation (No.1) 2015 (SL No. 18)
- Building Amendment Regulation (No.1) 2015 (SL No. 19).

The Committee did not identify any significant policy issues or issues relating to fundamental legislative principles in the subordinate legislation examined.

#### 4 Committee expenditure

The Committee had no revenue during 2014-15. The Committee is funded from the appropriation made to the Legislative Assembly. The expenditure of the Committee from 27 March 2015 to 30 June 2015 is shown in the table below.

Item	\$
Staff salaries and related expenses <sup>1</sup>	77,969.00
Business travel	0
Printing and production	0
Consultants	0
Telecommunication costs	390.45
Meeting expenses, stationery, consumables and miscellaneous expenses	596.63
<b>Expenditure Total</b>	<b>78,956.08</b>

#### 5 Meeting attendance record

The table below shows the attendance of Committee members at Committee meetings and other activities during the reporting period.

Standing Order 202(1) provides that in the case of a Committee members' illness or inability to attend, another member may be appointed to attend that meeting or stand in for a particular inquiry.

Meeting Date	Mr Shane King MP (Chair)	Mr Rob Molhoek MP (Deputy Chair)	Mr Don Brown MP	Mr Jason Costigan MP	Mr Dale Last MP	Mr Chris Whiting MP
6/5/15	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
20/5/15	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3/6/15	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
16/6/15	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

*Shane King*

Mr Shane King MP  
Chair

<sup>1</sup> Figures for staffing expenditure shown above reflect a three person secretariat supporting the committee. The committee's staffing might have been supplemented with additional resources from general Committee Office staff during the year.

