



Annual Report 2014–2015

Report No. 11, 55th Parliament

Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee

November 2015

Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee

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1 Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee

The Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources 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:

- Transport, Infrastructure, Local Government, Planning and Trade
- State Development, Natural Resources and Mines.

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 to 30 June 2015.

3 Inquiries and reports

During the reporting period, the committee tabled three reports and at the end of the reporting period had five open inquiries. The committee's reports and inquiries are summarised below. Copies of the committee's publications are available from the committee's webpage.

3.1 Bills and subordinate legislation

The committee examined a number of bills and items 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.

3.1.1 Report No. 1: Subordinate Legislation tabled on 14 October 2014

On 4 April 2014, the committee tabled a report on its examination of the following subordinate legislation tabled on 14 October 2014:

- Proclamation made under the State Development, Infrastructure and Planning (Red Tape Reduction) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2014 (SL 209)
- State Development and Public Works Organisation Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2014 (SL 210)
- Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2014 (SL 215)
- Heavy Vehicle (Mass, Dimension and Loading) National Amendment Regulation (SL 216)
- Proclamation commencing certain provisions (SL 217)
- Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) and Other Legislation Amendment and Repeal Regulation (No. 1) 2014 (SL 218)
- Transport Legislation and Another Regulation Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2014 (SL 219)
- Regional Planning Interests Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2014 (SL 226)
- Transport Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2014 (SL 232).

The committee did not make any recommendations other than the House note the contents of the committee's report.

3.1.2 Report No. 2: Subordinate legislation tabled between 15 October 2014 and 5 May 2015

On 20 May 2015, the committee tabled Report No. 2 on its examination of subordinate legislation tabled between 15 October 2014 and 5 May 2015. The subordinate legislation examined included:

- Aboriginal Land Amendment Regulation (No. 6) 2014 (SL 235)
- Sustainable Planning Amendment Regulation (No. 6) 2014 (SL 236)
- Proclamation made under the *Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act 2014* (SL 237)
- Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Amendment Regulation (No. 2) (SL 253)
- State Development and Public Works Organisation (State Development Areas) Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2014 (SL 259)
- Proclamation made under the *Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act 2014* (SL 269)
- Proclamation made under the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island (Providing Freehold) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2014* (SL 270)
- Land Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2014 (SL 271)
- Economic Development Amendment Regulation (No. 5) 2014 (SL 274)
- Royal National Agricultural and Industrial Association of Queensland Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2014 (SL 275)
- Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2014 (SL 287)
- Aboriginal Land Amendment Regulation (No. 8) 2014 (SL 288)
- Proclamation made under the *Local Government Legislation Amendment Act 2014* (SL 289)
- Local Government Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2014 (SL 290)
- Economic Development Amendment Regulation (No. 6) 2014 (SL 301)

- Proclamation made under the *Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act 2014* (SL 306)
- Land Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2014 (SL 307)
- Water Resource Plans Amendment Plan (No. 2) 2014 (SL 331)
- Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2014 (SL 332)
- Proclamation made under the *Water Reform and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2014* (SL 333)
- Water and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2014 (SL 334)
- Proclamation made under the *Water Reform and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2014* (SL 2)
- Water and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2015 (SL 3)
- Sustainable Planning Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2015 (SL 14).

The committee did not make any recommendations other than the House note the contents of the committee's report.

3.1.3 Report No. 3: Local Government and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015

On 27 March 2015, the Local Government and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015 was referred to the committee for examination and report. The committee was to provide its report to the Legislative Assembly by 22 May 2015.

The objectives of the Bill were to:

- ensure local government elections are run to the same standards of independence and efficiency as state and federal elections by removing the mandate in the *Local Government Electoral Act 2011* for a local government chief executive officer to be the returning officer for a local government election
- defer the commencement of Chapter 2 (Registration) of the *Heavy Vehicle National Law Act 2012* until 1 July 2018
- continue the Queensland Reconstruction Authority after 30 June 2015 to ensure communities affected by Cyclone Marcia receive the necessary assistance in rebuilding and recovery.

During the reporting period, the committee:

- held a public departmental briefing
- received six submissions
- held two public hearings in Brisbane
- tabled its report in Parliament.

The committee recommended the Bill be passed, made one recommendation for amendment and recommended the Minister consider a matter. The government did not support the committee's recommendations other than the Bill be passed. The Bill was passed on 3 June 2015.

3.1.4 Inquiry into fly-in, fly-out and other long-distance commuting work practices in regional Queensland

On 27 March 2015, the Parliament requested that the committee inquire into and report on fly-in, fly-out (FIFO) and other long-distance commuting work practices in regional Queensland. In undertaking the inquiry, the committee was requested to consider the following issues:

- the health impacts on workers and their families from long-distance commuting, particularly mental health impacts, and the provision of health services in mining communities
- the effects on families of rostering practices in mines using FIFO workforces
- the extent and projected growth in FIFO work practices by region and industry
- the costs and/or benefits and structural incentives and disincentives, including tax settings, for companies choosing a FIFO workforce
- the effect of a 100% non-resident FIFO workforce on established communities, including community wellbeing, the price of housing and availability, and access to services and infrastructure
- the quality of housing provided in accommodation villages for FIFO workforces
- strategies to optimise the FIFO experience for employees and their families, communities and industry
- the commuting practices for FIFO workforces, including the amount of time spent travelling, the methods of transportation, and adequacy of compensation paid for commuting travel times
- the effectiveness of current responses to impacts of FIFO workforces of the Commonwealth, State and Local Governments, and
- any other related matter.

Further, the committee was requested to seek public submissions and consult with key stakeholders including local communities, resource companies, unions and local government.

The committee was required to report to the Legislative Assembly by 30 September 2015.

During the reporting period, the committee:

- held a public departmental briefing
- received 235 submissions
- conducted nine regional public hearings in central Queensland
- conducted a public hearing in Brisbane.

3.1.5 Heavy Vehicle and National Law Amendment Bill 2015

On 19 May 2015, the Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill 2015 was referred to the committee for examination and report. The committee was required to table its report by 1 September 2015.

The objectives of the Bill were to amend the *Heavy Vehicle National Law Act 2012* (HVNL) to:

- change the electronic work diary (EWD) provisions to enable the effective implementation of an approval and monitoring regime that will support the use of EWDs by the heavy vehicle industry
- revise a number of penalty provisions to ensure consistency and equity in penalty amounts for offences contained in the HVNL
- reduce the administrative or regulatory burden for the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator and/or the heavy vehicle industry
- clarify existing requirements to aid interpretation of the HVNL
- improve the enforceability of the HVNL
- address technical drafting issues.

During the reporting period, the committee:

- held a public departmental briefing
- received 3 submissions.

3.1.6 Building Queensland Bill 2015

On 19 May 2015, the Building Queensland Bill 2015 was referred to the committee for examination and report. The committee was to provide its report to Parliament by 1 September 2015.

The objective of the Bill was to provide for the establishment of a new independent statutory advisory body called Building Queensland. Building Queensland will:

- provide independent expert advice to government about infrastructure in Queensland
- develop a robust and transparent framework for assessing infrastructure projects
- evaluate proposals for new and existing infrastructure
- assist or lead the preparation of certain business cases for infrastructure proposals
- prepare an infrastructure priority pipeline document
- lead the procurement and delivery of projects only when directed to do so by the Minister
- publish information and promote public awareness.

During the reporting period the committee:

- held a public departmental briefing
- received 13 submissions.

3.1.7 Sustainable Ports Development Bill 2015

On 3 June 2015, the Sustainable Ports Development Bill 2015 was referred to the committee for examination and report. The committee was required to table its report by 1 September 2015.

The objectives of the Bill were to manage the impacts of port development on the environment by:

- protecting greenfield areas by restricting new port development in and adjoining the GBRWHA to within current port limits
- restricting capital dredging for the development of new or expansion of existing port facilities to within the regulated port limits of Gladstone, Hay Point/Mackay, Abbot Point and Townsville (to optimise the use of infrastructure at these long established major bulk commodity ports)
- prohibiting the sea-based disposal of material into the GBRWHA generated by port-related capital dredging
- mandate the beneficial reuse of port-related capital dredged material, such as for land reclamation, or disposal on land where it is environmentally safe to do so
- requiring master plans at the long-established major bulk commodity ports of Gladstone, Hay Point/Mackay, Abbot Point and Townsville to optimise the use of existing port infrastructure and address operational, economic, environmental and social relationships as well as supply chains and surrounding land uses.

During the reporting period, the committee:

- held a public departmental briefing
- received 46 submissions, and a proforma submission received from 1,515 individuals.

3.1.8 Planning Bills

On 4 June 2015, the Shadow Minister for Infrastructure, Planning, Small Business, Employment and Trade, Mr Tim Nicholls MP, introduced three Private Member's Bills which were referred to the committee for examination and report:

Planning and Development (Planning for Prosperity) Bill 2015

The objective of the Bill is to deliver a land use planning and development assessment system by providing for:

- simplified plan making arrangements by reducing the complexity of State instruments, establishing more suitable processes for plan making, and improving infrastructure designation
- a streamlined development assessment system by simplifying the categories of development and decision rules
- an Act that is navigable and easy to use; removing procedural and prescriptive detail, and obsolete and redundant provisions of the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009*.

Planning and Development (Planning Court) Bill 2015

The purpose of the Bill is to provide a separate piece of legislation to govern the constitution, composition, jurisdiction and powers of the Planning and Environment Court. The Bill aims to provide the legislative foundation for new Court Rules and procedures to ensure the Court's efficient operation.

Planning and Development (Planning for Prosperity – Consequential Amendments) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015

The objective of the Bill is to make consequential amendments required for the proposed enactment of the Planning and Development Bill 2015 and Planning and Environment Court Bill 2015 and repeal of the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009*.

During the reporting period, the House set the committee's reporting date for all three Bills as 13 October 2015.

3.2 Public Accounts and Public Works

3.2.1 Consideration of Auditor-General Reports

On 5 May 2015, the Legislative Assembly referred the following Auditor-General reports to the committee for consideration:

- Report 8: 2014-15, *Traveltrain renewal: Sunlander 14*
- Report 16: 2014-15, *Results of audit: Local government entities 2013-14*.

On 2 June 2015, the Committee of the Legislative Assembly referred the following Auditor-General report to the committee for consideration:

- Report 19: 2014-15, *Fraud Management in Local Government*.

The committee's consideration of the reports will be detailed in the next reporting period.

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 to 30 June 2015 is shown in the table below.

Item	\$
Staff salaries and related expenses ¹	77,969
Business travel and other travel expenses	16,285.91
Contractors	406.25
Advertising	7,995.29
Communications	514.86
Hospitality, stationary and consumables	265.83
Expenditure Total	103,437.14

¹ 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.

5 Meeting attendance record

During the reporting period, the committee held 32 activities where a quorum of the committee was required to be present. The table below shows the attendance of committee members at each activity.

Meeting Date	Activity	Jim Pearce MP	Michael Hart MP	Glenn Butcher MP	Shane Knuth MP	Brittany Lauga MP	Lachlan Millar MP
9 April 2015	PM	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
20 April 2015	PM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
20 April 2015	PH	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
6 May 2015	PH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6 May 2015	PM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
20 May 2015	PH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
20 May 2015	PH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
20 May 2015	PM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
26 May 2015	PM S	✓	✓	n/a	n/a	✗	✓
29 May 2015	PM S	✓	✓	n/a	n/a	✓	n/a
3 June 2015	PH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3 June 2015	PH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3 June 2015	PM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3 June 2015	PM	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
10 June 2015	PM	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
15 June 2015	PH	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓
15 June 2015	PM	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
15 June 2015	PH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
16 June 2015	PH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
16 June 2015	PM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
16 June 2015	PH	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
17 June 2015	PH	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
17 June 2015	PH	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
18 June 2015	PH	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
18 June 2015	PH	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
19 June 2015	PH	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
25 June 2015	PH	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
25 June 2015	PM	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
25 June 2015	PM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
25 June 2015	PH	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓
25 June 2015	PM	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓
29 June 2015	PM S	✓	✓	n/a	n/a	n/a	✓

Legend:

PM	private meeting
PH	public hearing (includes public briefing)
S	sub-committee

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Pearce". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "J".

Jim Pearce MP

Chair

November 2015