



# **Annual Report 2014-15**

**Report No.7, 55<sup>th</sup> Parliament**

**Education, Tourism and Small Business Committee**

**November 2015**



## Education, Tourism and Small Business Committee

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Members	Mr Mark Bootham MP Mr Sid Cramp MP Ms Joan Pease MP Mr Bruce Saunders MP
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## 1 Education, Tourism and Small Business Committee

The Education, Tourism and Small Business 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:

- Education
- Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games.

## 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

### 3.2 Bills and subordinate legislation

No Bills were referred to the committee during the reporting period.

The committee examined a number of 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, and
- for subordinate legislation - its lawfulness.

#### 3.2.1 Report No.1, Subordinate legislation tabled between 27 August and 14 October 2014

On 6 May 2015 the Committee's first report was tabled. Report No. 1, *Portfolio subordinate legislation tabled between 27 August 2014 and 14 October 2014* reported on the committee's examination of the Education Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2014. The committee did not identify any

significant policy issues or departures from fundamental legislative principles, and recommended that the Legislative Assembly note its report.

### **3.2.2 Report No. 2, Subordinate legislation tabled between 15 October 2014 and 26 March 2015**

The Committee's Report No. 2, *Subordinate legislation tabled between 15 October 2014 and 26 March 2015* was tabled on 28 March 2015. The report summarised the committee's examination of the following subordinate legislation:

- Education Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2014
- Proclamation made under the Education and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2014
- Education Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2014
- Major Events (AFC Asian Cup) Regulation 2014.

The Committee was satisfied the regulation was lawful, and did not identify any significant policy issues or issues relating to fundamental legislative principles in the subordinate legislation. The committee's report noted some areas where the Explanatory Notes did not fully meet the requirements of the *Legislative Standards Act 1992*. The Committee recommended the House take note of the contents of its report.

### **3.3 Auditor-General Reports**

During the reporting period, the Committee of the Legislative Assembly referred the following Auditor-General report to the Committee for consideration:

#### **3.3.1 2018 Commonwealth Games: progress (Report 9: 2014-15)**

The Auditor-General's report, [2018 Commonwealth Games: progress](#) was tabled in December 2014, and referred to the Committee on 5 May 2015 for consideration. The report concluded that while preparations for the Games are progressing, overall planning, budgeting and governance was not at the level of maturity required to provide assurance across the entire program of work. The Auditor-General made five recommendations about governance, planning and budgeting.

On 20 May 2015 the Committee decided to monitor implementation of the Auditor-General's recommendations by the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Corporation and the Department of Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games. The committee has not yet reported to the Legislative Assembly.

#### **3.3.2 Maintenance of public schools (Report 11: 2014-15)**

The report, [Maintenance of public schools](#) was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 26 March 2015 and referred to the committee on 5 May 2015 for consideration.

The Auditor-General's report concluded that the Department of Education and Training was not maintaining schools to its own standards and requirements, the root cause of which was historical underfunding of maintenance. Given limited resources, the need to address backlogs means the Department of Education and Training is effectively locked into a cycle of reactive maintenance, when what the Auditor-General concluded is needed is adoption of preventative and predictive maintenance strategies. The Auditor-General's report made five recommendations concerning: assessment of the condition of buildings and condition standards; reporting of savings; and implementation of a school asset maintenance program that balances preventative and condition-based assessment to prolong the life of assets and reduce maintenance costs.

The committee decided in May 2015 to monitor implementation of the Auditor-General's recommendations and has not yet reported to the Legislative Assembly.



### **3.3.3 Oversight of recurrent grants to non-state schools (Report 12: 2014-15)**

On 26 March 2015 the Auditor-General's report [Oversight of recurrent grants to non-state schools](#) was tabled in the Legislative Assembly, and referred to the committee for consideration on 5 May 2015.

The Auditor-General's report concluded that some non-state schools received more state recurrent grants than they were entitled to because of overstatement of student numbers in the annual student census and therefore obtain funding for non-eligible students. The Auditor-General recommended changes in governance and audit verification arrangements, and clearer guidance to non-state schools about the annual student census.

The committee decided in May 2015 to monitor implementation of the Auditor-General's recommendations. The committee continues to monitor changes in the arrangements for the student census and arrangements for oversight of recurrent grants to non-state schools.

### **3.3.4 Follow up audit: Tourism industry growth and development (Report 14: 2014-15)**

The report [Follow up audit: Tourism industry growth and development](#) was referred to the committee for consideration on 5 May 2015.

The Auditor-General's report followed up on the progress and effectiveness of implementation of earlier recommendations by the Auditor-General in the 2012 report, [Tourism industry growth and development \(Report 3 : 2012-13\)](#). The Committee considered the follow up audit report in June 2015. The committee decided that further action was not required and that it would not report to the Legislative Assembly on the follow up audit.

### **3.3.5 Results of audit: Education sector entities 2014 (Report 15: 2014-15)**

On 5 May 2015, the report [Results of audit: Education sector entities 2014](#) was referred to the committee for consideration. The report provides the results of financial audits of 95 entities: public universities; university controlled entities; grammar schools and other education entities. Forty-seven unmodified audit opinions were issued, with one remaining opinion expected to be issued within legislative timeframes. All financial statements in the education sector were reported to comply with the relevant Commonwealth and state legislative requirements and the Australian accounting standards.

In June 2015 the Committee considered the report. The committee agreed that no further action or report to the Legislative Assembly was required.

#### 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.

<b>Item</b>	<b>\$</b>
Staff salaries and related expenses <sup>1</sup>	77,969
Business travel	0
Printing and production	0
Consultants	0
Telecommunication costs	381.22
Meeting expenses, stationery, consumables and miscellaneous expenses	256.95
<b>Expenditure Total</b>	<b>78,607.17</b>

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

## 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 Scott Stewart MP Chair	Dr John McVeigh MP Deputy Chair	Mr Mark Boothman MP	Mr Sid Cramp MP	Ms Joan Pease MP	Mr Bruce Saunders MP
6/5/15	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
20/5/15	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3/6/15	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓