

Annual Report
2017–18

Report No. 12, 56th Parliament
Transport and Public Works Committee
October 2018

Transport and Public Works Committee

Chair	Mr Shane King MP, Member for Kurwongbah
Deputy Chair	Mr Ted Sorensen MP, Member for Hervey Bay
Members	Mr Colin Boyce MP, Member for Callide
	Mr Robbie Katter MP, Member for Traeger
	Mr Bart Mellish MP, Member for Aspley
	Mrs Jo-Ann Miller MP, Member for Bundamba

Committee Secretariat

Telephone	+61 7 3553 6621
Fax	+61 7 3553 6699
Email	tpwc@parliament.qld.gov.au
Technical Scrutiny Secretariat	+61 7 3553 6601
Committee webpage	www.parliament.qld.gov.au/TPWC

Acknowledgements

The committee acknowledges the assistance provided by the Department of Transport and Main Roads and the Department of Housing and Public Works during the year.

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Chair's forward

This report relates to the activities of the Transport and Public Works Committee of the 56th Parliament from its commencement in February 2018 to June 2018.

On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank those individuals and organisations who have assisted the committee with its inquiries by providing submissions, appearing at public briefings and hearings and providing other information throughout the reporting period. I also thank our Parliamentary Service staff for their assistance.

I would also like to thank my fellow committee members for their continued commitment and dedication to ensuring the work of the committee was completed in a comprehensive and timely manner.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shane King". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Shane King MP
Chair

1 Transport and Public Works Committee

The Transport and Public Works Committee (committee) is a portfolio committee of the Legislative Assembly, which commenced on 15 February 2018, under the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001* and the Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Assembly.¹

The committee's primary areas of responsibility are:

- Transport and Main Roads
- Housing, Public Works, Digital Technology and Sport

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 15 February 2018 to 30 June 2018.

3 Inquiries and reports

The committee considered a number of issues and tabled seven reports during the 2017–2018 financial year. The committee's reports and inquiries are discussed below.

Copies of the committee's publications are available from the committee's webpage:

<http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/work-of-committees/committees/TPWC>

3.1 Bills and subordinate legislation

The committee examined a number of bills and 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.

The committee's typical inquiry process is to call for submissions and hold a public departmental briefing and a public hearing if required.

¹ *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*, section 88 and Standing Order 194.

3.1.1 Tow Truck and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 (Report No. 1: 56th Parliament)

On 15 February 2018, the Tow Truck and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 was referred to the committee for examination and report. The committee was required to table its report by 2 March 2018.

The Bill was similar to the Tow Truck and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017, which was referred to the former Public Works and Utilities Committee prior to the dissolution of the Parliament for the 2017 election. The former committee tabled its report on 4 October 2017. The committee utilised the evidence provided to the former committee during its consideration of the subject Bill.

The committee made one recommendation that the Bill be passed. The Bill was passed on 8 March 2018.

3.1.2 Plumbing and Drainage Bill 2018 (Report No. 3: 56th Parliament)

On 15 February 2018, the Plumbing and Drainage Bill 2018 was referred to the committee for examination and report. The committee was required to table its report by 9 April 2018.

The Bill was similar to the Plumbing and Drainage Bill 2017, which was referred to the former Public Works and Utilities Committee prior to the dissolution of the Parliament for the 2017 election. The former committee had not tabled its report prior to the dissolution of the Parliament. The committee utilised the evidence provided to the former committee during its consideration of the subject Bill.

The committee made three recommendations as follows:

- That the Bill be passed
- That the Minister consider investigating ways to help ensure the safety of contractors when installing and working with refrigeration fluids and single head split systems
- That the Minister provide an explanation of what is meant by the acronym 'MPU' by way of clarification during the second reading of the Bill.

3.1.3 Heavy Vehicle National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 (Report No. 4: 56th Parliament)

On 15 February 2018, the Heavy Vehicle National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 was referred to the committee for examination and report. The committee was required to table its report by 20 April 2018.

The committee made three recommendations as follows:

- That the Bill be passed
- That the Minister consider the issue of stakeholders' support for a timely review of the Heavy Vehicle National Law, in consultation with the Transport and Infrastructure Council
- That the Government consider an amendment to include the term 'negligent' to better reflect the intention of tiered offence provisions to close the gap between the existing offence of dangerous driving and driving without due care and attention.

The government supported recommendation 2 but did not support recommendation 3. The Bill passed, with amendment, on 13 June 2018.

3.1.4 Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill 2018 (Report No. 7: 56th Parliament)

On 4 May 2018, the Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill 2018 was referred to the committee for examination and report. The committee was required to table its report by 28 June 2018.

The committee made two recommendations as follows:

- That the Bill be passed
- That the Bill be amended to include a more definitive definition of the term ‘PBS’ in the Heavy Vehicle National Law.

3.1.5 Subordinate legislation

The committee tabled three reports resulting from its consideration of subordinate legislation within its portfolio area, as follows:

- Report No. 2, 56th Parliament: Subordinate legislation tabled between 9 August 2017 and 10 October 2017 – tabled on 5 March 2018
- Report No. 5, 56th Parliament: Subordinate legislation tabled between 11 October 2017 and 24 October 2017 – tabled on 30 April 2018
- Report No. 6, 56th Parliament: Subordinate legislation tabled between 24 October 2017 and 6 March 2018 – tabled on 12 June 2018.

The committee considered the application of the fundamental legislative principles to, and the lawfulness of, the subordinate legislation.

3.2 Inquiries referred by the Parliament

3.2.1 Inquiry into the operations of toll roads in Queensland

On 13 June 2018, the Legislative Assembly of the Queensland Parliament passed the following motion:

That the Transport and Public Works Committee inquire into and report to the Legislative Assembly by 13 September 2018 on the operations of toll roads in Queensland. In undertaking this inquiry, the committee should consider—

- (a) the operation of existing toll roads in South-East Queensland;*
- (b) toll pricing and incentive options to deliver better outcomes for Queenslanders;*
- (c) the operation of the existing complaint process and current statistics;*
- (d) possible measures to continue to improve customer service standards; and*
- (e) the existing relationship between the Tolling Customer Ombudsman and the Queensland Ombudsman.*

And that the Transport and Public Works Committee requests the attendance of Transurban, the Tolling Customer Ombudsman, the Queensland Ombudsman, the Department of Transport and Main Roads and the Brisbane City Council.

The committee will report on this inquiry in the next reporting period.

3.3 Self-referred inquiries under section 92(1)(d) of the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*

3.3.1 Inquiry into the transport technology

On 11 June 2018, the committee resolved to conduct an inquiry into transport technology. The terms of reference for the inquiry are to consider in detail the challenges and opportunities which technology will bring to the transport sector in coming years including:

- (a) identifying trends and changes in fuel type usage in the sectors of personal transport, freight transport and public transport, such as the increasing uptake of hybrid and electric vehicles
- (b) examining the readiness of the transport network for increasing electrification of vehicles in coming years
- (c) identifying other emerging technological factors which will impact on transport networks into the future, such as driver aid technology and 'driverless car' technologies
- (d) examining how technology is affecting employment arrangements in the transport industry, particularly in the food delivery area:

The committee will report on this inquiry in the next reporting period.

3.4 Public Works inquiries under section 94 of the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*

3.4.1 Inquiry into the Queensland Tennis Centre

On 4 May 2018, the committee resolved to conduct a public works inquiry into the Queensland Tennis Centre. The terms of reference for the inquiry are to examine the Queensland Tennis Centre project and report to the Parliament on:

- (a) the stated purpose of the works and the apparent suitability of the works for the purpose; and
- (b) the necessity for, and the advisability of, the works; and
- (c) value for money achieved, or likely to be achieved, by the works; and
- (d) revenue produced by, and recurrent costs of, the works or estimates of revenue and costs for the works; and
- (e) the present and prospective public value of the works, including, for example, consideration of the impact of the works on the community, economy and environment; and
- (f) procurement methods for the works; and
- (g) the balance of public and private sector involvement in the works; and
- (h) the performance of—
 - (i) the constructing authority for the works; and
 - (ii) the consultants and contractors for the works; with particular regard to the time taken for finishing the works and the cost and quality of the works; and
 - (iii) the actual suitability of the works in meeting the needs and in achieving the stated purpose of the works.

The committee will report on this inquiry in the next reporting period.

3.5 Public Accounts inquiries under section 94 of the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*

3.5.1 Consideration of Auditor-General reports

The following Auditor-General's reports were referred to the committee by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly pursuant to Standing Order 194B:

- Auditor-General Report No. 3: 2017-18 – Rail and Ports: 2016-17: Results of Financial Audits
- Auditor-General Report No. 4: 2017-18 – Integrated transport planning

The committee also considered the sections applicable to the committee's portfolio area contained in Auditor-General Report No. 11: 2016-17 – Queensland State Government: 2016-17 Results of Financial Audits.

The committee held a private briefing with the Auditor-General and representatives from the Queensland Audit Office on 30 April 2018 to discuss the issues raised in the three reports.

The committee is satisfied with the outcomes from Auditor-General Report No. 1 (2016-17) and No. 3 (2017-18) and intends to take no further action in regard to these reports.

On 11 June 2018, the committee held a public briefing with officials from the Department of Transport and Main Roads in respect to Auditor-General Report No 4 (2017-18). The committee will report separately on this report in the next report period.

4 Committee expenditure

The committee had no revenue during 2017–18. The committee is funded from the appropriation made to the Legislative Assembly. The expenditure of the committee covers the period from 12 February 2018 to 30 June 2018.

The following table outlines the committee's expenses during the reporting period:

Item	\$
Employee expenses ¹	122,228
Travel	664
Meeting expenses ²	2,588
Technology	3,586
Communications	805
Printing and supplies	1,218
Freight / Membership – other line/s as needed	316
EXPENDITURE TOTAL	131,407

¹ The figure for employee expenses reflects a three-person secretariat supporting the committee. The committee's staffing may have been supplemented with additional resources from general committee office staff during the reporting period.

² The figure for meeting expenses includes expenses for audio-visual broadcasting of meetings and hearings.

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	Shane King MP (Chair)	Ted Sorensen (Deputy Chair)	Colin Boyce MP	Robbie Katter MP	Bart Mellish MP	Mrs Jo-Ann Miller MP
21/2/2018	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
28/2/2018	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗
5/3/2018	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
14/3/2018	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
19/3/2018	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
26/3/2018	✓	✓	✓	✓	s ⁱ	✓
4/4/2018	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	s ⁱⁱ
18/4/2018	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	s ⁱⁱⁱ
30/4/2018	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4/5/2018	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓
14/5/2018	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
24/5/2018	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
11/6/2018	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
11/6/2018 Estimates	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
12/6/2018 Estimates	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
19/6/2018	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓

's' indicates where a committee member was replaced by substitute member – refer footnote below for details



Shane King MP
Chair

ⁱ Mr Michael Healy MP was appointed under SO 202 in place of Mr Mellish MP.

ⁱⁱ Mr Jim Madden MP was appointed under SO 202 in place of Mrs Miller MP.

ⁱⁱⁱ Mrs Charis Mullen MP was appointed under SO 202 in place of Mrs Miller MP.