



QUEENSLAND PARLIAMENT

# COMMITTEES

## Annual Report 2022-23



**Report No. 35, 57th Parliament**  
**Committee of the Legislative Assembly**  
October 2023

## **Committee of the Legislative Assembly**

**Chair** Hon Curtis Pitt MP, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Member for Mulgrave

**Members** Mr Jarrod Bleijie MP, Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Member for Kawana

Mr Don Brown MP, Member for Capalaba [Deputy Premier's alternate]

Hon Yvette D'Ath MP, Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence and Leader of the House, Member for Redcliffe

Mr Shane Knuth MP, Member for Hill [Crossbench nominee]

Ms Joan Pease MP, Member for Lytton [Premier's alternate]

Mr Andrew Powell MP, Manager of Opposition Business, Member for Glass House

Mr Ray Stevens MP, Member for Mermaid Beach [Leader of the Opposition's alternate]

### **Committee Secretariat**

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All web address references are current at the time of publishing.

### **Acknowledgements**

The committee acknowledges the assistance provided by the Committee Secretariat.

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## 1 Committee of the Legislative Assembly

The Committee of the Legislative Assembly (CLA or the committee) is a statutory committee established under the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001* (POQA).

Section 84 of the POQA provides that the committee's areas of responsibility are as follows:

*(a) the ethical conduct of Members;*

*Note—*

*However, under section 104C(2), a complaint about a particular member not complying with the code of ethical conduct for members may be considered only by the Assembly or the Ethics Committee.*

*(b) parliamentary powers, rights and immunities;*

*(c) standing rules and orders about the conduct of business by, and the practices and procedures of, the Assembly and its committees;*

*(d) any other matters for which the committee is given responsibility under the standing rules and orders;*

*(e) any matter referred to the committee by the Speaker.*

Section 108 of the POQA requires the chairperson of each parliamentary committee to table in the Legislative Assembly a report about that committee's activities during the year. The annual report must include:

*(a) a list of meetings of the committee and the names of members attending or absent from each meeting; and*

*(b) a summary of issues considered by the committee, including a description of the more significant issues arising from the considerations; and*

*(c) a statement of the committee's revenue and spending for the year; and*

*(d) a brief description of responses by Ministers to recommendations of the committee.*

Standing Order 135A Role of the Committee of the Legislative Assembly provides:

*The Committee of the Legislative Assembly shall:*

*(a) monitor and review the business of the Legislative Assembly to aim for the effective and efficient discharge of business;*

*(b) monitor and review the operation of committees, particularly the referral of Bills to committees, and where appropriate vary the time for committees to report on Bills or vary the committee responsible for a Bill.*

Standing Order 136 Portfolio committee reports on a Bill provides:

*(1) A portfolio committee must finally report to the House on a Bill within six calendar months of the Bill being referred to it unless an alternative report date on the Bill has been set by the House or the Committee of the Legislative Assembly in accordance with (2) and (3) below.*

*(2) The House may by order vary a portfolio committee's report date on a Bill to a period of not less than 6 weeks.*

*(3) The Committee of the Legislative Assembly may vary the time for a portfolio committee to report on a Bill provided that:*

*(a) the House has not by order already set the time for report under (2) above or SO 137 below; and*

*(b) the report date is not less than 6 weeks after the Bill has been referred to the portfolio committee; and*

*(c) the Committee of the Legislative Assembly reports its decision to the House at the earliest opportunity.*

*(4) The House or the Committee of the Legislative Assembly may vary the portfolio committee responsible for a Bill (notwithstanding the nomination of the member who introduced the Bill in accordance with SO 129(3)(c)). If the Committee of the Legislative Assembly varies the committee responsible for a Bill it must report such decision to the House at the earliest opportunity.*

Standing Order 194B, Consideration of Auditor-General reports by Portfolio Committees provides:

*The Committee of the Legislative Assembly shall as soon as practicable after a report of the Auditor-General is tabled in the Assembly refer that report to the relevant portfolio committee(s) for consideration.*

This report summarises the committee's activities from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023.

## **2 Summary of issues considered by the committee**

The committee tabled the following reports during the reporting period:

- Report No. 32 – Report on the 2022 Budget Estimates Process – 12 October 2022
- Report No. 33 – Annual Report 2021-2022 – Tabled 28 October 2022
- Report No. 34 – Annual Report of Former Committees 2021-2022 – Tabled 28 October 2022

The committee considered numerous briefings from the Parliamentary Service with respect to its areas of responsibility under the POQA.

The committee also exercised its responsibility under Standing Orders in setting or varying the time for committees to report on a bill, or varying the committee responsible for a bill, on 24 occasions; and referred 14 Auditor-General reports to committees during the period.

The committee wrote to the Queensland Independent Remuneration Tribunal (QIRT) regarding the members' remuneration and entitlements and met with the tribunal to discuss related issues.

The committee considered a number of issues referred to it by the Speaker throughout the year, including:

- Reviews of workplace culture in other parliamentary workplaces.
- The response to protest activity in the Public Gallery.
- Commencing a review of the Legislative Assembly's *Code of Ethical Standards* and the associated *Guide to the Code of Ethical Standards and Rules Relating to the Conduct of Members*.

The committee also considered a number of operational matters, including:

- Numerous briefings and updates regarding the refurbishment of the Parliamentary Annexe and accommodation options for members during the refurbishment.
- CCTV roll out and installation at Electorate Offices and protocols for managing the use of CCTV data.
- Participation of Electorate Offices in the DV Safe Phone initiative.
- A review of Electorate Officer salary arrangements.

- Consideration of Members Personal Accident Indemnity issues including writing to the Minister for Industrial Relations.
- Issues regarding the practical application of the Public Interest Disclosure Act including writing to the Attorney-General.

## 2.1 Ministerial responses to committee recommendations

Section 107 of the POQA provides that where a committee recommends the Government or a Minister should take particular action, or not take particular action, about an issue; or a report of the CLA recommends a motion be moved by the Assembly to implement a recommendation of the committee, the Minister responsible is required to provide the Legislative Assembly with a response.

There were no recommendations within the reporting period requiring a ministerial response.

## 3 Committee expenditure

The committee had no revenue during the reporting period. The committee had no specific budget allocation for 2022-2023, however funds were available from the General Committee Office budget. The committee expended \$6,880 on technology and meeting expenses during the period.

## 4 Meeting attendance record

The table below shows the attendance of committee members at CLA meetings during the reporting period.

Meeting Date	Hon C Pitt MP (Chair)	Mr J Bleijie MP	Mr D Brown MP <sup>1</sup>	Hon Y D'Ath MP	Mr S Knuth MP	Ms J Pease MP <sup>2</sup>	Mr A Powell MP	Mr R Stevens MP <sup>3</sup>
01-09-22	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
14-10-22	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗ <sup>4</sup>
27-10-22	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
10-11-22	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
1-12-33	✓	✓	✓	✗ <sup>5</sup>	✓	✓	✓	✓
23-02-23	✓	✓	✓	✗ <sup>6</sup>	✓	✓	✓	✓

<sup>1</sup> Mr Don Brown MP is the Deputy Premier's alternate on the CLA

<sup>2</sup> Ms Joan Pease MP is the Premier's alternate on the CLA

<sup>3</sup> Mr Ray Stevens MP is the Leader of the Opposition's alternate on the CLA

<sup>4</sup> Mr John-Paul Langbroek MP, Member for Surfers Paradise, substituted for the Leader of the Opposition

<sup>5</sup> Mrs Charis Mullen MP, Member for Jordan, substituted for the Leader of the House

<sup>6</sup> Hon Mark Furner MP, Member for Ferny Grove, Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities, substituted for the Leader of the House

Meeting Date	Hon C Pitt MP (Chair)	Mr J Blejje MP	Mr D Brown MP <sup>1</sup>	Hon Y D'Ath MP	Mr S Knuth MP	Ms J Pease MP <sup>2</sup>	Mr A Powell MP	Mr R Stevens MP <sup>3</sup>
16-03-23	✓	✓	✗ <sup>7</sup>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
30-03-23	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
20-04-23	✗ <sup>8</sup>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
25-05-23	✗ <sup>9</sup>	✓	✓	✓ <sup>10</sup>	✓	✓	✓	✓
16-06-23	✗ <sup>11</sup>	✓	✓	✓	✗ <sup>12</sup>	✓	✓	✓

Hon Curtis Pitt MP  
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly  
**Chair**

September 2023

<sup>7</sup> Mr Chris Whiting MP, Member for Bancroft, substituted for the Premier

<sup>8</sup> Mr Joe Kelly MP, Member for Greenslopes, was Acting Speaker from 9-12 May 2023, 16 May–11 June 2023, 15-30 June 2023

<sup>9</sup> Mr Joe Kelly MP, Member for Greenslopes, was Acting Speaker from 9-12 May 2023, 16 May–11 June 2023, 15-30 June 2023

<sup>10</sup> Mr Bart Mellish MP, Member for Aspley, proxy for the Leader of the House, to 1:39pm

<sup>11</sup> Mr Joe Kelly MP, Member for Greenslopes, was Acting Speaker from 9-12 May 2023, 16 May – 11 June 2023, 15-30 June 2023

<sup>12</sup> Ms Sandy Bolton MP, Member for Noosa, substituted for Crossbench nominee, Mr S Knuth