



Report to Queensland Parliament
52nd Presiding Officers and Clerks Conference
Honiara, Solomon Islands
July 2023



Cynthia Lui MP
Member for Cook
Representing the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Queensland

Honourable Members

I table this report for the information of the House on behalf of the Queensland Parliamentary Delegation to the 52nd Annual Presiding Officers and Clerks Conference held in Honiara, Solomon Islands. The delegation comprised of Bernice Watson (First Clerk Assistant, Committees) representing the Clerk of the Parliament and myself, representing the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Queensland.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'C' followed by several vertical strokes and a horizontal line extending to the right.

Cynthia Lui MP
Member for Cook

Date: 4 August 2023

Purpose of the travel

The primary purpose of this travel was to represent the Queensland Parliament at the 52nd Presiding Officers and Clerks Conference (POCC) and Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) related meetings held in conjunction with the conference.

The conference was hosted by the Solomon Islands Parliament between 2 – 6 July 2023 with many distinguished delegates, observers and spouses of delegates who attended the Conference from the Australian and Pacific Regions of the CPA.

The POCC is held annually, hosted on rotation amongst member branches and provides a regional forum for the continuing professional development of the Speaker and a formal avenue for exchanging information on trends and innovations in parliamentary procedure and administration.

It is general practice that the Australian Regional Management Committee of the CPA be held in conjunction of these conferences. The Speaker, as Branch President, represents Queensland at these meetings.

My travel itinerary is detailed at **Attachment A**.

The full conference program is set out in **Attachment B**

Travel costs are included at **Attachment C**.

Accompanying persons

Whilst I represented the Queensland Parliament as a Presiding Officer, Ms Bernice Watson (First Clerk Assistant, Committees) accompanied me to represent the Clerk of the Queensland Parliament.

Presiding Officers and Clerks Conference

The theme of the conference was 'Building Strong and Resilient Parliaments'.

Under the conference theme, President of the Australian Senate, Senator Sue Lines spoke under the topic of 'representation, resilience and innovation'. President Lines spoke of the need for planned pathways to ensure real representation of diverse community participants, requiring representatives to focus on their role as parliamentarians ahead of party representatives.

The Speaker of the National Parliament of Solomon Islands, Hon Patteson J Oti, spoke of the challenges of climate change; and of the need to ensure parliamentary oversight of this critical issue. Hon Oti advised that Parliament is considering a motion to establish a formal pathway for reports of national significance, such as the Solomon Islands State of the Environment Report 2019, to be automatically referred to a parliamentary committee for examination and, if necessary inquiry, into any potential issues before reporting back to the Parliament with findings and any

recommendations. This is similar to the approach Queensland takes with Auditor-General reports tabled in the Parliament.

Topics of other contributions included the procedure by which the Bougainville Referendum Result would be brought to the floor of the National Parliament; a parliament – schools engagement program; parliamentary privilege matters; and a number of procedural matters.

Each participating parliament provided a ‘jurisdiction report’. Queensland’s report focussed on the Regional Parliament held in Cairns in May 2023, the Parliamentary Annexe Refurbishment project, and a question related to Parliamentary privilege which is currently before the High Court of Australia.

The Queensland delegation met with the delegations from the Parliaments of Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea, both of with whom the Queensland Parliament is ‘twinned’ under the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Australian and Pacific Regions’ twinning program. Information was exchanged about progress since the last visit by Queensland Parliament representatives to Vanuatu in 2019 including that the previous 1982 Standing Orders have been replaced; and a number of reforms are continuing, including around the respective roles of the parliament and the executive, and the value of a strong committee system. Papua New Guinea delegates also highlighted the importance of the committee system, including the current project to enable live-streaming of committee proceedings.

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association meeting

In conjunction with the POCC, a Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Australia Region meeting was held, along with a Joint Australia – Pacific Regions meeting.

Queensland delegates advised both meetings of plans for the 40th CPA Australia and Pacific Regions Conference to be hosted by the Queensland Parliament in November 2023.

Benefits obtained from this travel

Attendance at the conference provided me with various opportunities including:

- Represent the Queensland Parliament at the annual POCC and share Queensland’s views on commonwealth parliamentary matters
- Develop closer ties with the Solomon Islands Parliament, Speaker Hon John Patterson Oti and other Solomon Island Parliamentarians
- Develop closer ties with Presiding Officers in other jurisdictions in Australia and the Pacific, including Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu, with whom Queensland is ‘twinned’ under the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association’s twinning program
- Developing a connection with the President of the Congress of New Caledonian, Hon Roch Wamytan

- Develop a greater understanding of parliamentary practices and contemporary issues in other parliaments
- Increase awareness of procedural issues experienced by Presiding Officers in other jurisdictions
- Representation of the Queensland Parliament in Commonwealth Parliamentary Association activity.

Personal component of travel

There was no personal component associated with this travel.

Attachment A – Cynthia Lui MP Travel itinerary

Friday 30 June 2023	Depart Cairns for Brisbane	Travel day
Saturday 1 July 2023	Depart Brisbane for Solomon Islands	Travel day
Sunday 2 July 2023	Evening Welcome Reception	Official visit
Monday 3 July to Wednesday 5 July	Presiding Officers and Clerks Conference in Solomon Islands	Official visit
Thursday 6 July	Conference excursion	Official visit
Friday 7 July	Depart Solomon Islands for Cairns via Brisbane	Travel day

Attachment B – Programme



52nd POCC

Presiding Officers & Clerks Conference
Honiara, Solomon Islands 2023

Sunday 2 July 2023		Venue	Partners
3:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Early registration	Parliament House	Yes
6:00 pm – 7:15 pm	Welcome Reception Hosted by the Governor General of Solomon Islands – Sir David Vunagi, GCMG KStJ	Government House	Yes

Monday 3 July 2023		Venue	Partners
8:30 am – 9:30 am	Registration	Parliament House	Yes
9:30 am – 10:00 am	Official conference opening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome from the Speaker of National Parliament – Hon Patteson Oti Traditional welcome – (Chupu) 	Parliament Chamber The Chupu ceremony will take place outside on Parliament grounds	Yes
10:15 am	Conference photograph & Morning tea		Yes
10:45 am – 11:00 am	Election of Chair and Deputy Chair Delegates return to the Parliament chamber for the election of the Chair and Deputy Chair for the Conference	Parliament Chamber	Partner's Program Commences at 11:00 am
11:00 am – 11:45 am	Keynote address Hon. Roch Wamytan - President of the Congress of New Caledonia	Parliament Chamber	
11:45 am – 1:00 pm	Jurisdiction reports – Session 1 5-minute reports by parliaments followed by questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commonwealth Parliament – House of Representatives Victoria, Nauru, Tuvalu Tasmania, Australian Capital Territory, Kiribati 	Parliament Chamber, Parliament House	
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	<i>Lunch</i>		
2:00 pm – 3:30 pm	Session 1: Representation, Resilience and innovation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hon Sue Lines, Australian Senate Hon Patteson Oti, Solomon Islands David Blunt, NSW Convener: - Hon Rod Roberts, NSW	Parliament Chamber, Parliament House	
3:30 pm – 4:00 pm	<i>Afternoon tea</i>		
4:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Session 2: Parliamentary Privilege & Procedures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hon Joy Burch, ACT Mr. Tom Duncan, ACT Hon. Shaun Leane MLC, Victoria Mr. Robert McDonald, Victoria Convener: Rt. Hon Adrian Rurawhe, New Zealand	Parliament Chamber, Parliament House	
6:00pm	AUS/NZ PACIFIC Reception	Heritage Park Hotel	

Tuesday 4 July 2023		Venue	Partners
9:30 am – 10:30 am	Session 3 Strengthening Parliament – Security & Precincts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hon. Greg Piper, NSW Hon Michelle Roberts MLA, WA Helen Minican, NSW Bridget Noonan, Victoria Convener: Hon Milton Dick, Australian House of Representatives	Parliament Chamber, Parliament House	Partner's Program
10:30 am – 11:00 am	<i>Morning tea</i>		
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Twinned Parliament Meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PTC room 1 – Nauru, Tuvalu and Victoria PTC room 2 – New South Wales, Bougainville and Solomon Islands PTC room 3 - Queensland with Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu PTC room 4 – Australian Capital Territory and Kiribati Meeting room 1 – Cook Islands and Western Australia Meeting room 2 - South Australia & Tonga <p>Alternate arrangements will be offered to delegates who won't participate in the twinning meetings.</p>	Paul Tovua Complex (PTC) Parliament Building	
12:10 pm – 1:30 pm	<i>Lunch</i>		
1:20 pm – 3:00 pm	Jurisdiction reports – Session 2 5-minute reports by parliaments followed by questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Zealand New South Wales, Bougainville, Solomon Islands Queensland 	Parliament Chamber	
3:00 pm – 3:30 pm	<i>Afternoon tea</i>		
3:30 pm	CPA meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CPA Pacific Region Management Committee Meeting 	Paul Tovua Complex	

4:00pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CPA Australia Region Management Committee Meeting Join CPA Region Meeting	Parliament Chamber	
6:30 pm – 9:30 pm	Presiding Officers' dinner	High Commissioner's Residence	Yes
	Clerks' & Chief Executives dinner	Dreamcast Theater	Yes

Wednesday 5 July 2023		Venue	Partners
9:00 am – 10:30 am	Session 4 Parliamentary Partnerships & Engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kala Aufo, Papua New Guinea • David Wilson, New Zealand • Rafael Gonzalez-Montero, New Zealand • David Kusilifu, Solomon Islands Convener: Hon Lord Fakafanua, Tonga	Parliament Chamber, Parliament House	Partner's Program
10:30 am – 11:00 am	<i>Morning Tea</i>		
11:00 am – 12:30 pm	Jurisdiction reports – Session 3 5-minute reports by parliaments followed by questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tonga • Northern Territory, • Western Australia, Cook Islands 	Parliament Chamber, Parliament House	
12:30 pm – 1:30 pm	<i>Lunch</i>		
1:30 pm – 2:30 pm	Conference close Closing remarks	Parliament Chamber, Parliament House	
2:30 pm – 3:00 pm	<i>Afternoon tea</i>		
	Free afternoon		
6:30 pm – 10:00 pm	Conference dinner [Dress – Tropical Formal/Smart Casual]	Parliament Grounds	

Thursday 6 July 2023		Venue	
9:00 am –	Buses depart Hotels		
10:30 am – 12:00 pm	TOUR Amazing Grace <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Traditional Welcome & Green Coconut Refreshment, Picking and Tasting of Cocoa 2. Cocoa Farm fermenting & Drying Site 3. Hands-on experience on Value adding activity such as roasting of Cocoa beans 	Amazing Grace	
12:30 pm – 1:30 pm	LUNCH at Amazing Grace Lunch and Entertainment from local cultural group.		
1:30 pm – 3:00 pm	TOUR Amazing Grace <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Hands on Traditional Weaving experience using 5. Demonstration of Traditional cooking 	Amazing Grace	
3:00 pm – 4:00 pm	TRAVEL Amazing Grace to Hotel		
	Free night		

Attachment C –Travel costs

The aggregate estimated costs of attendance for the Queensland delegation was \$12,560.70