



QUEENSLAND PARLIAMENT

COMMITTEES

Annual Report 2023-2024



Report No. 20, 57th Parliament

Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee

August 2024

Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee

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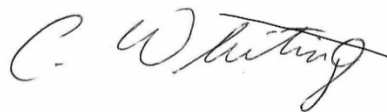
Chair's foreword

The Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee of the 57th Parliament was established by the Queensland Legislative Assembly on 13 February 2024 as a portfolio committee. This report details the activities of the Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee from 13 February 2024 to 30 June 2024.

In accordance with section 108 of the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*, this report includes a summary of issues considered by the committee, a brief description of Ministerial responses to committee recommendations, a statement of revenue and spending for the year, and a list of committee meetings and names of members attending or absent from each meeting.

On behalf of the committee, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have contributed to the work of the committee during this reporting period.

I also thank my fellow committee members for their ongoing dedication and collaborative approach and the committee's secretariat and parliamentary staff for their professional support throughout the year.



Chris Whiting MP

Chair

Report in brief



The Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee (the committee) of the 57th Parliament was established by the Queensland Legislative Assembly on 13 February 2024 as a portfolio committee.

The committee has responsibility for:

- State Development, Infrastructure, Industrial Relations and Racing
- Housing, Local Government, Planning and Public Works
- Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water.

This report covers the period from 13 February 2024 to 30 June 2024 in the 2023-24 financial period.

This reporting period, the committee:

	examined 9 bills		heard from 177 witnesses		reviewed 17 pieces of subordinate legislation
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The committee's examination of bills included a diverse range of policy proposals to:

- amend legislation to strengthen renters' rights, support private investment, provide better pathways to resolve issues in tenancies and stabilise rents in the private rental market¹
- establish a legal framework to enact a safe, decriminalised sex work industry in Queensland²
- create the Games Venue and Legacy Delivery Authority and its Board for the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.³

The committee considered 9 bills during the reporting period, recommending that 7 be passed and one not be passed. Consideration of one bill was ongoing at the end of the reporting period. The committee made 7 recommendations to amend, clarify or improve the operation of the legislation proposed in the bills. Of these, 6 recommendations were accepted by the government.

The committee reviewed 17 pieces of subordinate legislation. In each case the committee was satisfied that the subordinate legislation had sufficient regard for fundamental legislative principles and any limitations on human rights were sufficiently justified in the circumstances.

The committee also considered 8 Auditor-General reports and maintained oversight of the Independent Assessor.

On 14 June 2024, the Appropriation Bill 2024 and the estimates for the committee's area of responsibility were referred to the committee for investigation and report. The committee commenced preparation for its examination of portfolio budget estimates.

The committee's total expenditure for the year was \$180,667.

A committee meeting attendance record is attached at Appendix A.

¹ Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024.

² Criminal Code (Decriminalising Sex Work) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024.

³ Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Amendment Bill 2024.

1 Functions of the committee

The Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee is a portfolio committee responsible for:

- State Development, Infrastructure, Industrial Relations and Racing
- Housing, Local Government, Planning and Public Works
- Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water.

The committee has a broad range of responsibilities within its portfolio area, as detailed in Figure 1, below. These responsibilities are set out in the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*.⁴ The committee is also responsible for maintaining oversight of the Independent Assessor, as detailed in Schedule 6 of the *Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Assembly*.

Figure 1: Committees are responsible for oversight of many matters within their portfolio areas



2 Overview of committee activities

Table 1 (overleaf) summarises the activities of the committee for this reporting period.

The committee engaged with a range of stakeholders who contributed to its inquiries, hearing from 177 witnesses across 8 public briefings with departmental officials, 12 public hearings and 2 private hearings. The evidence provided by these witnesses was invaluable and helped the committee to consider the 9 bills referred to it for examination.

The committee also examined 17 items of subordinate legislation, maintained oversight of the Independent Assessor and conducted 25 deliberative meetings.

⁴ Sections 92-94.

Table 1: Committee activities, by type, 13 February 2024 to 30 June 2024

Activity	Number
Deliberative meetings	25
Public briefings	8
Private briefings	0
Public hearings – Brisbane	8
Public hearings – Regional Queensland	4
Private hearings	2
Witnesses questioned at private and public briefings and hearings	177
Inquiry submissions received	374
Interactions with Schedule 6 oversight bodies ⁵	2
Bill inquiries	9
Pieces of subordinate legislation examined	17
Forms authorised by legislation considered	0
Public works inquiries – Auditor-General reports examined	8
Annual reports of portfolio entities examined	0
Inquiries referred by the Legislative Assembly	0
Inquiries into other matters (self-referred)	0
Reports tabled	16

The committee's reports completed between 13 February 2024 and 30 June 2024 are available from the committee's webpage: <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/HBBMC>

Members' attendance at committee meetings, hearings and briefings is set out in **Appendix A** at the back of this report.

3 Examination of budget estimates

On 14 June 2024, the Appropriation Bill 2024 and the estimates for the committee's area of responsibility were referred to the committee for investigation and report. The committee commenced preparations for the examination of the 2024-25 budget estimates for its portfolio areas, which totalled approximately \$6 billion.

The estimates process for 2024-25 was ongoing at the end of this reporting period.

⁵ See written briefings from Independent Assessor dated 21 February 2024 and 5 April 2024 on committee website.

4 Bill inquiries

When the committee examines legislation, it is responsible for considering:

- the policy to which the legislation gives effect
- whether the legislation complies with basic standards for laws, known as ‘fundamental legislative principles’
- whether the legislation is compatible with the human rights of people in Queensland
- and for subordinate legislation, its lawfulness.

The committee conducted 9 Bill inquiries this reporting period, with one inquiry progressing into the next reporting period.

Of the 8 Bill inquiries completed, the committee recommended that 7 be passed and one not be passed.⁶ The committee also made additional recommendations as shown in Table 2.

The government has 3 months to provide a response to recommendations made by the committee. The government accepted all but one of the recommendations made by the committee.

Table 2: Bills examined by the committee between 13 February 2024 and 30 June 2024

Bill	Report no.	Recommendations
Agriculture and Fisheries and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023	2	5
Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024	3	1
Criminal Code (Decriminalising Sex Work) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024	4	2
Manufactured Homes (Residential Parks) Amendment Bill 2024	6	1
Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024	7	1
Planning and Other Legislation (Make Developers Pay) Amendment Bill 2023	8	1
Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Amendment Bill 2024	9	2
Help to Buy (Commonwealth Powers) Bill 2024	11	2
Trusts Bill 2024	Inquiry ongoing as at 30 June 2024	

A summary of the key issues considered by the committee for each of the Bills and a brief description of responses by Ministers to recommendations of the committee is provided below.

4.1 Agriculture and Fisheries and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023

The Agriculture and Fisheries and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023 (Bill) was transferred to the committee on the 13 February 2024. The Bill, introduced on 16 November 2023, had previously been considered by the former State Development and Regional Industries Committee.

The primary objectives of the Bill were to:

⁶ Planning and Other Legislation (Make Developers Pay) Amendment Bill 2023.

- amend the *Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008* to strengthen dog control and management laws in Queensland
- amend the *Fisheries Act 1994* to introduce a framework for independent onboard monitoring and enhance and modernise provisions relating to fisheries enforcement.

As part of its examination, the committee examined 60 submissions and transcripts of the former committee which included a public departmental briefing and public hearing with core stakeholders. The committee also held an additional public hearing with 20 witnesses contributing to the inquiry.⁷

The committee tabled its report on 8 March 2024 and recommended that the Bill be passed. The committee made 4 additional recommendations, including that:

- the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (the department) develop guidelines on dog breed identification to support the local government sector implement any new laws
- the Bill be amended at clause 67 to provide that if a non-regulated dog seriously attacks a person, the authorised person must make a destruction order in relation to the dog
- the government introduce in regulation measures that safeguard the privacy of information collected through Independent Onboard Monitoring
- the department consider the timeframes associated with aquaculture authorities, specifically whether a period of more than 12 months may be more appropriate.⁸

The government accepted all recommendations except the recommendation that clause 67 be amended. The government stated that mandating destruction orders for non-regulated dogs would remove all discretion that an authorised officer has in cases where there is no prior history of risk to consider, potentially resulting in a local government being forced to destroy dogs in inappropriate cases.⁹

The Bill was passed with amendment on 18 April 2024.

4.2 Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

The Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 (Bill) was introduced on 14 February 2024 and was referred to the committee for consideration.

The Bill proposed amendments to the *Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) Act 2017* to clarify and simplify:

- who is a 'subcontractor beneficiary' of a project trust
- trust account ledger and record keeping requirements
- treatment of GST for retention deposits
- reviews for independent trust accounts
- transitional application of project trust account and retention trust account eligibility.

The Bill also implemented recommendations from the Queensland Building and Construction Commission (QBCC) Governance Review Report to:

⁷ Public briefings were held in Brisbane on 27 November 2023 and 12 February 2024, public hearings were held in Brisbane on 12 December 2023 and 16 February 2024.

⁸ Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee, *Report No. 2, 57th Parliament, Agriculture and Fisheries and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023*, March 2024, <https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/tp/2024/5724T338-5839.pdf>.

⁹ Government response, 18 April 2024.

- reduce the Queensland Building and Construction Board from 10 to 7 members and publish a conflict-of-interest register for the Board
- transfer the responsibility for prescribing technical qualification requirements for licensing under the *Plumbing and Drainage Act 2018* and the *Building Act 1975* from the QBCC to the Department of Housing, Local Government, Planning and Public works (the department).

The committee accepted 9 submissions to its inquiry and held a public briefing with departmental officials and two public hearings with 13 witnesses contributing to the inquiry.

The committee tabled the report of its inquiry on 12 April 2024 and recommended that the Bill be passed. No further recommendations were made.

The Bill was passed on 16 April 2024.

4.3 Criminal Code (Decriminalising Sex Work) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

The Criminal Code (Decriminalising Sex Work) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 (Bill) was introduced on 15 February 2024 and was referred to the committee for consideration.

The Bill's primary objective was to establish a legal framework that would enact a safe, decriminalised sex work industry in Queensland, resulting in improved health, safety, rights and legal protections for sex workers. The framework proposed by the Bill was based on the recommendations of the Queensland Law Reform Commission report: *A decriminalised sex-work industry for Queensland*.

In examining the Bill, the committee accepted 176 submissions to its inquiry and held 2 public briefings with departmental officials, 2 public hearings and 1 private hearing, with contributions from 37 witnesses.

The committee tabled the report of its inquiry on 12 April 2024 and recommended that the Bill be passed. The committee made one additional recommendation that amendments to the Planning Regulation 2017, which support a decriminalised sex work framework, reflect the principle that the regulation of sex work, including land use and planning applications related to sex work businesses, be no more and no less than for other legal businesses.¹⁰

The recommendation was accepted by the government.¹¹

The Bill was passed with amendment on 2 May 2024.

4.4 Manufactured Homes (Residential Parks) Amendment Bill 2024

The Manufactured Homes (Residential Parks) Amendment Bill 2024 (Bill) was introduced into Queensland Parliament on 21 March 2024 and was referred to the committee for consideration.

The Bill's key objectives were to improve consumer protections in residential parks and balance reasonable industry viability by:

- addressing concerns about site rent increases and delays in selling manufactured homes
- creating appropriate incentives that apply downward pressure on site rent and upward pressure on quality
- providing greater transparency about residential parks and improve consumer confidence for home owners and prospective home owners by introducing new registration requirements for residential parks, along with information and disclosure requirements for park owners.¹²

¹⁰ Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee, Report No. 4, 57th Parliament - Criminal Code (Decriminalising Sex Work) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024.

¹¹ Government response, 2 May 2024.

¹² Explanatory notes, p 1.

The committee accepted 53 submissions and held one public briefing with departmental officials and 4 regional public hearings. The committee heard from 62 witnesses during this public inquiry, with over 400 observers in attendance at the public hearings.

The committee tabled the report of its inquiry on 10 May 2024 and recommended that the Bill be passed. No further recommendations were made.

The Bill was passed with amendment on 23 May 2024.

4.5 Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024

The Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 (Bill) was introduced into the Queensland Parliament on 21 March 2024 and was referred to the committee for consideration.

The Bill proposed to amend the *Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Act 2008* to strengthen renters' rights, support private investment, provide better pathways to resolve issues in tenancies and stabilise rents in the private rental market.

The committee accepted 103 submissions to its inquiry. This included two form submissions which had been received from 270 individuals. The committee also held one public briefing with departmental officials and one public hearing, with contributions from 19 witnesses.

The committee tabled the report of its inquiry on 10 May 2024. The committee recommended that the Bill be passed. No further recommendations were made.

The Bill was passed with amendment on 23 May 2024.

4.6 Planning and Other Legislation (Make Developers Pay) Amendment Bill 2023

The Planning and Other Legislation (Make Developers Pay) Amendment Bill 2023 (Bill) was transferred to the committee on the 13 February 2024. The Bill which was introduced on 15 November 2023 by the Member of Maiwar had previously been referred and considered by the former State Development and Regional Industries Committee.

The primary aim of the Bill is to provide local governments with the flexibility to charge developers for trunk infrastructure according to the cost of delivering that infrastructure by removing the Maximum Allowable Charge (MAC) and subsequent references to the MAC in the *Planning Act 2016* and the *South-East Queensland Water (Distribution and Retail Restructuring Act) 2009*.

As part of its examination of the Bill, the committee considered 14 submissions and the transcript of a public briefing conducted by the former committee.

The committee tabled the report of its inquiry on 15 May 2024. The committee recommended the Bill not be passed.

At the time of reporting, the Bill was listed on the Notice Paper for its second reading.

4.7 Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Amendment Bill 2024

The Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Amendment Bill 2024 (Bill) was introduced into Queensland Parliament on 17 April 2024 and was referred to the committee for consideration.

The main objective of the Bill was to amend the *Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Act 2021* so as to establish the Games Venue and Legacy Delivery Authority (the Authority) and its Board.¹³

¹³ Explanatory notes, p 1.

The committee accepted 18 submissions to its inquiry and conducted one public briefing with departmental officials, one public hearing and one private hearing, with contributions from 7 witnesses.

The committee tabled the report of its inquiry on 17 May 2024 and recommended that the Bill be passed. The committee made one additional recommendation that the clause 12 of the Bill be amended to include the Gold Coast Mayor as a member of the Board for the Brisbane Organising Committee.¹⁴ The recommendation was accepted by the government.¹⁵

The Bill was passed with amendment on 23 May 2024.

4.8 Help to Buy (Commonwealth Powers) Bill 2024

The Help to Buy (Commonwealth Powers) Bill 2024 (Bill) was introduced into Queensland Parliament on 2 May 2024 and was referred to the committee for consideration.

The Bill was drafted with the objective to facilitate the operation of the Australian Government's Help to Buy scheme (the Scheme) in Queensland.

The facilitation of the Scheme in Queensland required the Queensland Government to refer text-based legislative power to the Commonwealth Parliament under section 52 (xxxvii) of the Australian Constitution, enabling the passage of the Commonwealth Help to Buy Bill 2023 (Commonwealth Bill) in the Australian Parliament and supporting the constitutional basis to establish the Scheme.¹⁶

The committee accepted 10 submissions and conducted one public briefing with departmental officials and one public hearing, with 12 witnesses contributing to its inquiry.

The committee tabled the report of its inquiry on 7 June 2024 and recommended that the Bill be passed. The committee also recommended that the Queensland Government continue to liaise with the Australian Government on the parameters of the Help to Buy scheme to ensure that the volume of participants and places for targeted groups, purchase price caps, participant income levels and buy-out provisions are appropriate for Queensland.¹⁷ The recommendation was accepted by the government.¹⁸

The Bill was passed on 11 June 2024.

4.9 Trusts Bill 2024

The Trusts Bill 2024 (Bill) was introduced into Queensland Parliament on 21 May 2024 and was referred to the committee for consideration.

The Bill's main purpose was to replace the *Trusts Act 1973* with modernised and simplified trusts legislation by introducing new and revised provisions that would streamline the legislation to meet contemporary needs and address existing gaps in the current Act.¹⁹

The committee accepted 5 submissions and conducted one public briefing with departmental officials.

As at 30 June 2024, the committee's inquiry was on-going.

¹⁴ Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee, Report No. 9, 57th Parliament - Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Amendment Bill 2024.

¹⁵ Government response, 23 May 2024.

¹⁶ Explanatory notes, p 2.

¹⁷ Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee, Report No. 11, 57th Parliament - Help to Buy (Commonwealth Powers) Bill 2024, p 15.

¹⁸ Government response, 11 June 2024.

¹⁹ Explanatory notes, p 1.

5 Other inquiries

The committee undertook 8 other inquiries during the reporting period in relation to its public accounts, public works and other responsibilities.

5.1 Public accounts inquiries

The committee is responsible for assessing the public accounts of entities within its portfolio areas with regard to the economy, efficiency and effectiveness of financial management. This responsibility includes examination of government financial documents including annual reports, and reports of the Auditor-General relevant to the committee's portfolio.²⁰

5.1.1 Auditor-General reports

The committee's role includes consideration of reports of the Auditor-General that fall within its portfolio.²¹ The Auditor-General leads the Queensland Audit Office (QAO), which is the independent auditor of the public sector. It reports to parliament on the results of its audit work, providing insights and advice, and recommendations for improvement.

This reporting period, the committee considered 8 reports from the Auditor-General (see Table 3).

The committee reported on 3 Auditor-General reports during the reporting period. The committee reports on 5 Auditor-General reports in the sections that follow. The consideration of one Auditor-General report is ongoing.

Table 3: Auditor-General reports considered between 13 February 2024 and 30 June 2024

Auditor-General report	Consideration completed/ongoing	Committee report no.	Committee recommendations
Report 1: 2022-23 – <i>Delivering social housing services</i>	Completed	n/a	0
Report 7: 2022-23 – <i>Major projects 2022</i>	Completed	n/a	0
Report 2: 2023-24 – <i>Improving asset management in local government</i>	Completed	16	1
Report 18: 2022-23 – <i>Queensland Regional Accommodation Centre (Wellcamp)</i>	Completed	n/a	0
Report 15: 2022-23 – <i>Local government 2022</i>	Completed	15	1
Report 7: 2023-24 – <i>Major projects 2023</i>	Completed	n/a	0
Report 8: 2023-24 – <i>Local government 2023</i>	Completed	15	1
Report 14: 2023-24 – <i>Queensland's regions 2023</i>	Ongoing	n/a	n/a

²⁰ *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001, s 94(1).*

²¹ *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001, s 94(1).*

5.1.1.1 Report 1: 2022-23 -Delivering social housing services

On 13 February 2024, the Legislative Assembly transferred Report 1: 2022-23 -Delivering social housing services (QAO Report) to the committee for consideration. The report had previously been referred to the Community Support and Services Committee.

The QAO report examined whether social housing was being effectively managed to meet the housing needs of vulnerable Queenslanders and how effectively the then Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy (the department) was managing the assessment of individual social housing needs and allocating and managing social housing.²²

The QAO audit found that the department needed to improve its systems and processes, and develop a more diverse approach to managing the increasing demand for social housing in Queensland.²³ The QAO made 8 recommendations to improve the management of the Social Housing Register and application processes, housing allocation procedures, and approach to managing housing allocations over time. The department accepted each of the recommendations.²⁴

In undertaking its examination, the committee considered the transcript of the public briefing conducted by the Community Support and Services Committee with the Auditor-General in October 2022. The committee also considered departmental advice provided on 4 August 2023 which provided an update on the implementation status of the QAO recommendations. That advice stated that the department had fully implemented 5 of the 8 recommendations, and that the remaining recommendations were on track for completion by the end of 2023.²⁵ The public briefing transcript and departmental advice is available on the Community Support and Services Committee's webpage.

This report concludes the committee's consideration of the QAO Report.

5.1.1.2 Report 7: 2022-23 – Major projects 2022

On 13 February 2024, the Legislative Assembly transferred the Report 7: 2022-23 – Major projects 2022 (QAO Report) to the committee for consideration. The report had previously been referred and considered by the former State Development and Regional Industries Committee.

The QAO Report detailed capital expenditure across Queensland's regions and within government portfolios over a 5-year period, including the status of the Cross River Rail project. It also provided an assessment of the Cross River Rail's procurement and contract management plans, including the detailed business cases, along with an overview of future and planned major projects.²⁶

The QAO did not provide any specific recommendations, however indicated that 'the expected benefits of the Cross River Rail project should continue to be monitored, and appropriate transport and other strategies implemented, to maximise rail patronage and road user benefits over the medium and long term'.²⁷

In undertaking its examination, the committee considered transcripts of the public briefings conducted by the former State Development and Regional Industries Committee with the Auditor-General on 13 March 2023, and officials from the then Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and the Department of Transport and Main Roads, on 15 September 2023. A number of questions on notice were also considered. The transcripts and answers to questions on notice are available on the committee's webpage.

This report concludes the committee's consideration of the QAO Report.

²² QAO, Report 1: 2022-23, p 30.

²³ QAO, Report 1: 2022-23, p 2.

²⁴ QAO, Report 1: 2022-23, Appendix A.

²⁵ Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy, correspondence, 4 August 2023.

²⁶ QAO, Report 7: 2022-23, p 27.

²⁷ QAO, Report 7: 2022-23, p 20.

5.1.1.3 Report 2: 2023-24 – Improving asset management in local government

On 13 February 2024, the Legislative Assembly transferred Report 2: 2023-24 – Improving asset management in local government (QAO Report) to the committee for consideration. The report had previously been referred and considered by the former State Development and Regional Industries Committee.

The QAO Report audited 5 councils across Queensland to assess their approaches to managing their assets. The audit found that, to varying degrees, councils need to manage their assets more effectively and that the then Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (the department) could play an important role in this.

The QAO also provided all local councils with a self-assessment survey to complete in relation to their asset management approaches. The results of the survey highlighted local councils' need for stronger leadership to embed asset management processes, particularly processes that could withstand staff changes and deliver better community services.

The QAO made 9 recommendations, with 5 recommendations for all local councils and 4 recommendations for the department. Eight local councils responded to the QAO, stating they accepted the recommendations and welcomed the support of the department in moving forward with the changes.²⁸ The department also responded to the QAO, stating they accepted 3 recommendations in full and one recommendation in principle.²⁹

On 28 June 2024, the committee tabled its report, *Report No. 16, 57th Parliament – Examination of Auditor-General Report 2: 2023-24 Improving asset management in local government*. The committee recommended that the Legislative Assembly note the contents of its report.

5.1.1.4 Report 18: 2022-23 – Queensland Regional Accommodation Centre (Wellcamp)

On 13 February 2024, the Legislative Assembly transferred Report 18: 2022-23 – Queensland Regional Accommodation Centre (Wellcamp) (QAO Report) to the committee for consideration. The report had previously been referred to the former Transport and Resources Committee.

The QAO Report provided insights into the context and background behind the procurement of the Queensland Regional Accommodation Centre (QRAC) during the COVID-19 pandemic, the procurement process, the cost of the project, and the use of confidentiality provisions.

The QAO found that the procurement process was reasonable, considering the uncertainty associated with the pandemic. The QAO stated the Queensland Government should have undertaken modelling to ascertain the impact of the State's vaccination rate on future quarantine measures and the reduction of such measures as per the *National Plan to transition Australia's National Covid-19 Response*.³⁰ The QAO also found that despite confidentiality provisions in the commercial contracts, the Queensland Government should have considered disclosing the total value of agreements once they were signed.³¹

The QAO made 3 recommendations for the then Department of Energy and Public Works (the department) to:

1. expand the definition of reportable contracts in the *Procurement guidelines: contract disclosure* to include the purchase and lease of real property

²⁸ QAO, Report 2: 2023-24, pp 31-51.

²⁹ QAO, Report 2: 2023-24, p 28.

³⁰ QAO, Report 18: 2022-23, p 1.

³¹ QAO, Report 18: 2022-23, p 1.

2. update the *Use and disclosure of confidentiality provisions in government contracts* guidelines to provide advice on when information can be released if it is no longer considered commercially sensitive and times when disclosure is necessary to meet transparency and accountability requirements
3. develop guidance to assist ministers answering questions in Parliament where relevant information is subject to confidentiality provisions.³²

The department accepted recommendations 1 and 2 (recommendation 3 was not within the department's areas of responsibility).³³ The Department of Premier and Cabinet responded that it did not agree with recommendation 3. It argued that proceedings of Parliament are the province of Parliament and the Speaker, and that questions of commercial-in-confidence are best examined on a case-by-case basis.³⁴

This report concludes the committee's consideration of the QAO Report.

5.1.1.5 Report 15: 2022-23 – Local government 2022

On 13 February 2024, the Legislative Assembly transferred Report 15: 2022-23 – Local government 2022 (QAO Report) to the committee for consideration. The report had previously been referred and considered by the former State Development and Regional Industries Committee.

The QAO Report examined the financial performance and reporting mechanisms of Queensland's local councils. The QAO found:

- financial statements are reliable, but fewer councils prioritised and achieved timely financial reporting
- councils are taking too long to resolve high-risk issues
- grant funding received in advance has masked the full extent of the sector's decline in financial sustainability.³⁵

The QAO made 8 recommendations. One recommendation was for local governments to assess the maturity of their contract management processes. Seven recommendations were directed to the then Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (the department). These were aimed at: providing guidance to councils to improve financial reporting; ensuring certain definitions around Ministerial extensions were clear, measuring the effectiveness of training programs provided to councils, ensuring councils have effective internal audit functions and cyber-related capabilities, and the publication of a framework to assess the financial sustainability of councils.

The department outlined its support for 5 of the recommendations, and in principle support for remaining 3. The department also indicated support for the recommendation to the local councils and undertook to write to the councils to emphasise the importance of the recommendation.³⁶

On 28 June 2024, the committee tabled its report, *Report No. 15, 57th Parliament – Examination of Auditor-General Report 15: 2022-23 Local government 2022 Report 8: 2023-24 Local government 2023*. The committee recommended that the Legislative Assembly note the contents of its report.

5.1.1.6 Report 7: 2023-24 – Major projects 2023

On 15 February 2024, the Legislative Assembly referred *Report 7: 2023-24 – Major projects 2023* (QAO Report) to the committee for consideration, in accordance with Standing Order 194B.

³² QAO, Report 18: 2022-23, p 1.

³³ QAO, Report 18: 2022-23, p 24.

³⁴ QAO, Report 18: 2022-23, pp 26-27.

³⁵ QAO, Report 15: 2022-23, p 1.

³⁶ QAO, Report 15: 2022-23, p 2.

The QAO Report provided insights into major infrastructure projects in Queensland, and an analysis of expenditure by the Queensland Government.³⁷ The QAO noted that over the next 10 years, there was an expectation for significant infrastructure to be delivered. The QAO cited concerns that various risks including weather and shortages of labour and supplies could stymie the completion of these projects.³⁸ The QAO suggested the Queensland Government needs to determine infrastructure priorities so that the most significant projects meet completion timelines.³⁹

The QAO made 2 recommendations to Queensland Treasury:

1. strengthen disclosures in project summaries for public-private partnerships (agreements private sector companies enter into with the public sector to deliver services)
2. update guidelines for preparing the capital statement (the annual overview of proposed capital expenditure).⁴⁰

Responses to the QAO Report from the then Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning, Transport Minister, and Assistant Chief Executive Officer of the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority generally noted the insights within the Report and provided updates on significant relevant announcements relating to various projects. A response from Queensland Treasury to the recommendations was not provided in the QAO Report.

This report concludes the committee's consideration of the QAO Report.

5.1.1.7 Report 8: 2023-24 – Local government 2023

On 13 February 2024, the Legislative Assembly transferred Report 8: 2023-24 – Local government 2023 (QAO Report) to the committee for consideration. The QAO Report had previously been referred and considered by the former State Development and Regional Industries Committee.

The Report summarised the audit results of Queensland's 77 local government entities (local councils) and the entities they control. The QAO found that:

- financial statements are reliable, but less timely
- more action is needed on outstanding high-risk issues
- having extra advance funding continues to affect results
- new sustainability measures are in effect, but the risk framework needs improvement.⁴¹

The QAO made 7 recommendations, with 3 recommendations for local councils and 4 for the Department of Housing, Local Government, Planning and Public Works (the department). Recommendations to local governments focussed on implementing processes to ensure policies and procedures are regularly reviewed, providing onboarding programs for elected officials, and reviewing the registration status of engineering services staff.

Recommendations to the department focussed on introducing an internal controls assurance framework for councils, amending certain sustainability framework requirements, and developing a way to measure the overall sustainability risk of individual councils.

³⁷ QAO, Report 7: 2023-24, p 1.

³⁸ QAO, Report 7: 2023-24, p 4.

³⁹ QAO, Report 7: 2023-34, p 4.

⁴⁰ QAO, Report 7: 2023-24, p 2.

⁴¹ QAO, Report 8: 2023-24, p 1.

The department outlined its support or in principle support for all recommendations.⁴² The department also indicated its support for recommendations to councils and noted that it will write to all councils emphasising the importance of implementing the recommendations.⁴³

The QAO Report also provided a summary of the implementation status of QAO recommendations from previous reports relating to the local government sector. Despite some progress, the QAO continued to be of the view that councils need to take action in the following areas: financial reporting, audit committees, internal control environments, cybersecurity, asset management, sustainability, liquidity management, security of information systems, risk management and procurement practices.⁴⁴

On 28 June 2024 the committee tabled its report, *Report No. 15, 57th Parliament – Examination of Auditor-General Report 15: 2022-23 Local government 2022 Report 8: 2023-24 Local government 2023*. The committee recommended that the Legislative Assembly note the contents of its report.

5.1.1.8 Report 14: 2023-24 – Queensland regions 2023

On 14 June 2024, the Legislative Assembly referred *Report 14: 2023-24 – Queensland Regions 2023* (QAO Report) to the committee, in accordance with Standing Order 194B.

The QAO Report is the first in a series examining different aspects of government support for Queensland's regions.⁴⁵

As at 30 June 2024, the committee's consideration of the QAO Report was ongoing.

5.2 Public works inquiries

The committee may consider public works undertaken by an entity that is a constructing authority⁴⁶ for the works, or consider any major works,⁴⁷ with its portfolio areas.

The committee did not undertake any public works inquiries during the reporting period.

5.3 Inquiries into other matters

In relation to its portfolio areas, the committee may initiate an inquiry into any other matter it considers appropriate.⁴⁸

The committee did not undertake any self-referred inquiries during the reporting period.

⁴² QAO, Report 8: 2023-24, p 40.

⁴³ QAO, Report 8: 2023-24, p 40.

⁴⁴ QAO, Report 8: 2023-24, pp 49-60.

⁴⁵ QAO, Report 14: 2023-24, p 1.

⁴⁶ See *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*, s 96.

⁴⁷ See *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*, s 94.

⁴⁸ *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*, s 92(1)(d).

6 Scrutiny of subordinate legislation

Subordinate legislation is legislation made by a department or other entity under powers given to them by an act of parliament. All subordinate legislation must be tabled in the Legislative Assembly, which can disallow it by resolution.⁴⁹ To help it decide whether or not to do so, the Legislative Assembly refers each item of subordinate legislation to the relevant portfolio committee for consideration.

When examining subordinate legislation, each committee considers a range of matters, including:

- whether it has sufficient regard for basic standards for legislation, known as ‘fundamental legislative principles’
- whether it is consistent with the human rights of people in Queensland
- whether the explanatory notes provide an adequate explanation of why the subordinate legislation is needed and what it does.

During the reporting period, the committee examined 17 pieces of subordinate legislation. The committee did not identify any issues regarding the policy to be given effect or the lawfulness of the subordinate legislation.

As shown in Table 4, the committee identified matters relating to fundamental legislative principles or human rights in less than half of the subordinate legislation it examined. Where issues were identified, in each case the committee was ultimately satisfied that the subordinate legislation had sufficient regard for fundamental legislative principles, and any limitations of human rights were reasonable and justified in the circumstances.

Following consideration of the Planning and Environment Court Amendment Rule 2024, the committee recommended that the responsible Minister table an erratum to address inconsistent references to rule and part numbers in SL No. 5 and the explanatory notes. The government accepted the committee’s recommendation and tabled an erratum to the legislation.

Table 4: Portfolio subordinate legislation examined, 13 February 2024 – 30 June 2024

Report No.	Subordinate legislation	Matters identified		Explanatory notes adequate
		Fundamental legislative principles	Human rights	
1	State Development and Public Works Organisation (Julia Creek-Richmond Critical Minerals Zone Water Delivery Options) Amendment Regulation 2023	0	1	✓
5	Water Amendment Regulation 2023	0	2	✓
	Work Health and Safety (Codes of Practice) (Respirable Dust in Coal-fired Power Stations) Amendment Notice 2023	0	0	✓
	Building and Other Legislation (Queensland Development Code Update) Amendment Regulation 2023	0	0	✓
	Housing Amendment Regulation 2023	0	0	✓

⁴⁹ *Statutory Instruments Act 1992*, ss 49 & 50.

Report No.	Subordinate legislation	Matters identified		Explanatory notes adequate
		Fundamental legislative principles	Human rights	
5	Retirement Villages (Exempt Schemes) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2023	1	1	✓
	Local Government (Boundary Changes) Amendment Regulation 2023	0	0	✓
	Regional Planning Interests (Fraser Island Strategic Environmental Area) Amendment Regulation 2023	0	0	✓
	Planning (SEQ Regulatory Provisions) Amendment Regulation 2023	0	2	✓
	Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation (Psychiatric Assessment Tribunal) Amendment Regulation 2024	0	1	✓
10	Planning and Environment Court Amendment Rule 2024	0	0	x
	Queensland Building and Construction Commission (Minimum Financial Requirements) Amendment Regulation 2024	0	0	✓
	Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) (Omission of Lawn Hill (Creek) Resources Reserve) Amendment Regulation 2024	0	0	✓
	State Development and Public Works Organisation (State Development Areas) (Mackay) Amendment Regulation 2024	0	2	✓
12	Local Government Legislation (Councillor Conduct) Amendment Regulation 2024	1	3	✓
13	Work Health and Safety (Quad Bikes) Amendment Regulation 2024	1	2	✓
	Work Health and Safety (Codes of Practice) (Solar Farms) and Other Legislation Amendment Notice 2024	0	0	✓

7 Consideration of forms authorised by legislation

The committee's responsibilities include monitoring the operation of s 48 of the *Acts Interpretation Act 1954* in relation to legislation within its portfolio area. That section sets out a number of requirements for forms, including how forms must be notified and made available to the public.

The committee did not consider any forms, during the reporting period.

8 Statutory oversight

8.1.1 Oversight of the Independent Assessor

The committee has oversight responsibility for the Independent Assessor, whose role is to investigate and assess complaints made about individual local government councillors. The committee's functions include monitoring and reviewing the Independent Assessor's performance of the functions of the office.⁵⁰

During the reporting period, the committee received 2 written briefings from the Independent Assessor on the performance of the Office of the Independent Assessor of its functions. Those briefings also provided an update on the implementation of recommendations outlined in the former State Development and Regional Industries Committee's inquiry report into the functions of the Independent Assessor and councillor conduct complaints system, tabled in October 2022.

The written briefings indicated a tangible improvement in the operation of the councillor conduct and complaint systems in Queensland, particularly the improvement of timeframes for assessing and providing outcomes for complaints and the publication of processing timeframes. These briefings are available on the committee's website.

On 28 June 2024, the committee tabled *Report No. 14, 57th Parliament, Examination of the Office of the Independent Assessor 2024*. In that report, the committee noted the improvements in performance of the Office of the Independent Assessor and the positive implementation of recent legislative reforms and recommendations of the former State Development and Regional Industries Committee.⁵¹

9 Committee expenditure

Committees are funded from the appropriation made to the Legislative Assembly and rarely generate revenue. After funding is allocated for the committee office as a whole, expenditure by individual committees is determined by their specific requirements and volume of work. Travel expenditure is subject to an additional approval process.

In the reporting period 13 February 2024 to 30 June 2024, the committee's total expenditure was \$180,667. The committee did not receive any revenue.

Figure 2 shows the four main areas of expenditure. As that figure illustrates, employee expenses for the secretariat staff that support the committee comprised the vast majority (just over 85 per cent) of the committee's expenditure. The committee's secretariat is a three-person team, supplemented with additional resources from across the Committee Office as needed throughout the year.

⁵⁰ Legislative Assembly of Queensland, *Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Assembly*, Standing Order 194(a).

⁵¹ Housing Big Build and Manufacturing Committee, *Report No. 14, 57th Parliament, Examination of the Office of the Independent Assessor 2024*, p 10.

Figure 2: Main areas of committee expenditure in the reporting period

After employee expenses, legal advice was another notable expense. This expenditure allowed the committee to obtain expert briefings on the compliance of legislation with the Human Rights Act 2019. Committee travel and meeting expenses were the next most notable areas of expenditure for the committee, with the committee undertaking regional travel to Hervey Bay, Deception Bay, Bribie Island and Logan for its inquiry into the Manufactured Homes (Residential Parks) Amendment Bill 2024.

Table 5 provides a more detailed breakdown of the committee's expenditure for the year.

Table 5: Expenditure of the committee for the reporting period

Item	\$
Employee expenses	153,753
Business travel	6,011
Meeting expenses (including broadcast support)	6,304
Technology	2,522
Legal advice	11,437
Printing, stationery and maintenance	640
Total expenditure	180,667

Appendix A: Meeting attendance record

Table 6 below shows the attendance of committee members at private committee meetings (PrM), public briefings (PB), private briefings (PrB), public hearings (PH) and private hearings (PrH) 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. The details of these appointments are included in the footnotes.

Table 6: Meeting attendance record, for the reporting period 13 February 2024 – 30 June 2024.

Meeting Date	Activity	Chris Whiting MP (Chair)	Jim McDonald MP (Deputy Chair)	Don Brown MP	Michael Hart MP	Robbie Katter MP	Tom Smith MP
16 February 2024	PrM	✓	✗ ⁵²	✓	✓	✓	✓
16 February 2024	PH	✓	✗ ⁵⁴	✓	✓	✓	✓
26 February 2024	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
26 February 2024	PB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
26 February 2024	PB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
04 March 2024	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
06 March 2024	PrM	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓
12 March 2024	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
18 March 2024	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
18 March 2024	PH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
22 March 2024	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✗ ⁵³	✗	✓
22 March 2024	PB	✓	✓	✓	✗ ⁵⁵	✓	✓
22 March 2024	PH	✓	✓	✓	✗ ⁵⁵	✓	✓
22 March 2024	PH	✓	✓	✓	✗ ⁵⁵	✓	✓
26 March 2024	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✗ ⁵⁶	✗	✗ ⁵⁴

⁵² James Lister MP, Member for Southern Downs replaced Jim McDonald MP under SO202(1).

⁵³ Ann Leahy MP, Member for Warrego replaced Michael Hart MP under SO202(1).

⁵⁴ Ann Leahy MP, Member for Warrego replaced Michael Hart MP and Jonty Bush MP, Member for Cooper replaced Tom Smith MP under SO202(1).

Meeting Date	Activity	Chris Whiting MP (Chair)	Jim McDonald MP (Deputy Chair)	Don Brown MP	Michael Hart MP	Robbie Katter MP	Tom Smith MP
26 March 2024	PH	✓	✓	✓	✗ ⁵⁶	✓	✗ ⁵⁶
26 March 2024	PrH	✓	✓	✓	✗ ⁵⁶	✓	✗ ⁵⁶
02 April 2024	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✗ ⁵⁵	✗	✓
02 April 2024	PB	✓	✓	✓	✗ ⁵⁷	✓	✓
02 April 2024	PB	✓	✓	✓	✗ ⁵⁷	✓	✓
09 April 2024	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
15 April 2024	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
16 April 2024	PrM	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
18 April 2024	PrM	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓
22 April 2024	PH ⁵⁶	✓	✓	✗ ⁵⁷	✓	✗ ⁵⁸	✗ ⁶⁰
23 April 2024	PH ⁵⁸	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗ ⁶⁰	✗ ⁶⁰
23 April 2024	PH ⁵⁸	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗ ⁶⁰	✗ ⁶⁰
26 April 2024	PH ⁵⁸	✓	✗ ⁵⁹	✓ ⁶⁰	✓	✗ ⁶⁰	✗ ⁶⁰
29 April 2024	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
29 April 2024	PB ⁶¹	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗ ⁶⁰	✗ ⁶⁰
29 April 2024	PH ⁶³	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
03 May 2024	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗
08 May 2024	PrM	✓	✗ ⁶²	✓	✓	✗	✓

⁵⁵ Ann Leahy MP, Member for Warrego replaced Michael Hart MP under SO202(1).

⁵⁶ A sub-committee comprising Chris Whiting MP, Jim McDonald MP, Don Brown MP and Michael Hart MP conducted the public hearing.

⁵⁷ Adrian Tantari MP, Member for Hervey Bay replaced Don Brown MP under SO202(1).

⁵⁸ Not a member of the sub-committee.

⁵⁹ Mark Boothman MP, Member for Theodore replaced Jim McDonald MP under SO202(1).

⁶⁰ Linus Power MP, Member for Logan replaced Don Brown MP for a part day under SO202(1).

⁶¹ A sub-committee comprising Chris Whiting MP, Jim McDonald MP, Don Brown MP and Michael Hart MP conducted the public briefing.

⁶² Ann Leahy MP, Member for Warrego replaced Michael Hart MP under SO202(1).

Meeting Date	Activity	Chris Whiting MP (Chair)	Jim McDonald MP (Deputy Chair)	Don Brown MP	Michael Hart MP	Robbie Katter MP	Tom Smith MP
13 May 2024	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
13 May 2024	PrM ⁶³	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗ ⁶⁴
13 May 2024	PB ⁶⁵	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗ ⁶⁶
13 May 2024	PH ⁶⁶	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗ ⁶⁶
15 May 2024	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✗ ⁶⁷	✗	✗ ⁶⁸
20 May 2024	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
20 May 2024	PrH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
21 May 2024	PrM	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓
27 May 2024	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
27 May 2024	PH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
05 June 2024	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
10 June 2024	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
10 June 2024	PB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
17 June 2024	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
27 June 2024	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

⁶³ A sub-committee comprising Chris Whiting MP, Jim McDonald MP, Don Brown MP and Michael Hart MP conducted the private meeting.

⁶⁴ Not a member of the sub-committee.

⁶⁵ A sub-committee comprising Chris Whiting MP, Jim McDonald MP, Don Brown MP and Michael Hart MP conducted the public briefing.

⁶⁶ A sub-committee comprising Chris Whiting MP, Jim McDonald MP, Don Brown MP and Michael Hart MP conducted the public hearing.

⁶⁷ Bryson Head MP, Member for Callide replaced Michael Hart MP under SO202(1).

⁶⁸ James Martin MP, Member for Stretton replaced Tom Smith MP under SO202(1).

STATEMENT OF RESERVATIONS

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

Introduction

The unicameral nature of the Queensland Parliament means that the portfolio committee's have an important role in examining Bills and Reports on behalf of the Queensland Parliament and people of Queensland.

The LNP members of the Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee take this responsibility seriously and have completed Statement of Reservations for most of the nine (9) Bills examined by the committee between 13 February 2024 and 30 June 2024 outlining many concerns. The Statements of Reservations are available within the Committee Reports associated with each of the Bills examined and are available on the committee's webpage here:

<https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Work-of-Committees/Committees/Committee-Details?cid=240&inquiryListingType=Past>

Consideration of Auditor-General Reports

During the reporting period, 8 Auditor-General reports were referred to the Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee. The committee system in Queensland provides the opportunity for parliamentary committees to conduct hearings with the Auditor-General, and other relevant stakeholders, in relation to the matters covered in these reports should they wish to do so.

This Annual Report clearly indicates that hearings were not conducted with the Auditor-General in relation to many of these reports. Some of the Auditor-General reports were tabled in the Queensland Parliament months and in some cases over a year ago.

Briefings or hearings with the Auditor-General and others such as departmental officials, would have provided the committee with opportunity to examine key findings and recommendations made by the Auditor-General in relation to some of the most important issues facing Queenslanders today.

For example, in relation to **Auditor-General Report 1: 2022-23 – Delivering social housing services:**

- The Queensland Audit Office (QAO) found that the department's current processes to manage the housing register are 'not effective'.¹ The Report also stated that the department 'needs to improve its current systems and processes to better manage the increasing demand for social housing in Queensland'.²

In relation to **Auditor-General Report 18: 2022-23 - Queensland Regional Accommodation Centre (Wellcamp):**

- The QAO report stated that the total cost of QRAC was \$223 million, which included \$198.5 million for construction and leasing (including an upfront \$48.8 million payment), \$14 million for facilities management services and \$10 million for health services.³
- The QAO found:
 'while there was still significant uncertainty on the continuing impact of the pandemic at this time (September 2021), alternates such as home and hotel quarantine were available.

¹ QAO, Report 1: 2022-23, p 2.

² QAO, Report 1: 2022-23, p 2.

³ QAO, Report 18: 2022-23, p 10.

This should have been more fully considered at the time of entering the contract in September 2021 to better ensure value for money for taxpayers.⁴

- The QAO also found that:

‘despite the confidentiality provisions in the agreements, the Queensland Government should have considered disclosing the total value of the arrangement once the agreements were signed.’⁵

In relation to **Auditor-General Report 7: 2023-24 - Major Projects 2023:**

- The QAO noted:

‘the Cross River Rail project was originally expected to be completed in 2025, at a budgeted cost of \$6.888 billion (including private financing of \$1.499 billion). The rising costs of supplies and supply chain issues have affected the delivery of the project. The Queensland Government has committed additional funding of \$960 million, increasing the total budget to \$7.848 billion, with the project now expected to be completed in 2026.’⁶

- The QAO stated:

‘Current reporting requirements in Queensland could be strengthened to require more complete reporting on capital projects. This particularly applies to the disclosure requirements for the annual capital statement (which details capital projects) and public-private partnerships (between private sector companies and the public sector).’⁷

- The QAO recommended that Queensland Treasury:

‘Strengthens disclosures in project summaries for public-private partnerships’ and ‘updates guidelines for preparing the capital statement’.⁸

The LNP members of the committee are disappointed that hearings and further inquiries into such findings did not take place this reporting period.

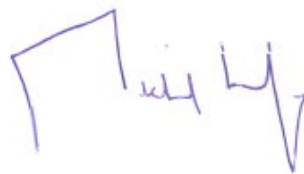
Committee minutes

Opposition Members also note that no committee minutes have been published in this reporting period and as such we feel the committee is not being accountable and transparent.

In conclusion, there needs to be improvements made to the way committees work so that they do the job envisaged by the Parliament.



Jim McDonald MP
Deputy Chair
Member for Lockyer



Michael Hart MP
Member for Burleigh

⁴ QAO, Report 18: 2022-23, pp 1, 5-7.

⁵ QAO, Report 18: 2022-23, p 1.

⁶ QAO, Report 7: 2023-24, p 1.

⁷ QAO, Report 7: 2023-24, p 1.

⁸ QAO, Report 7: 2023-24, p 2.