



QUEENSLAND PARLIAMENT **COMMITTEES**

2025-26 Budget Estimates - Appropriation Bill 2025

Governance, Energy and Finance Committee



Report No. 12

58th Parliament, August 2025

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Governance, Energy and Finance Committee

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Deputy Chair	Mr Chris Whiting MP, Member for Bancroft
Members	Ms Bisma Asif MP, Member for Sandgate
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All references and webpages are current at the time of publishing.

Acknowledgements

The committee acknowledges the assistance provided by the:

- Premier and Minister for Veterans
- Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership
- Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training.

The committee also acknowledges the assistance provided by departmental officers who contributed to the work of the committee during the estimates process.

Table of Contents

Chair's Foreword	iv
Executive Summary	v
Recommendation	vi
Glossary	vii
1. Overview of the Budget Estimates Process.....	1
1.1. Inquiry Process.....	3
1.2. Participation by other Members of Parliament	3
1.3. Should the proposed expenditure be agreed to?	4
2. Premier and Minister for Veterans	5
2.1. Department of the Premier and Cabinet	5
2.1.1. Budget overview	6
i. Trends in Vote	7
Committee comment.....	7
2.1.2. Capital program.....	7
2.1.3. Budget Highlights – Department of the Premier and Cabinet	8
2.1.4. Matters raised during the Estimates Process.....	8
2.2. Public Sector Commission	11
2.2.1. Budget overview	12
i. Trends in Vote	12
2.2.2. Matters raised during the Estimates Process.....	13
2.3. Office of the Governor	13
2.3.1. Budget overview	13
i. Trends in Vote	14
2.3.2. Capital program.....	14
2.4. Queensland Audit Office.....	14
2.4.1. Budget overview	15
i. Trends in Vote	15
2.4.2. Matters raised during the Estimates Process.....	16
3. Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership.....	17
3.1. Queensland Treasury	18
3.1.1. Budget overview	19
i. Trends in Vote	20
Committee comment.....	20
3.1.2. Budget Highlights – Queensland Treasury.....	21

3.1.3. Capital program	21
3.1.4. Matters raised during the Estimates Process	22
3.2. Queensland Productivity Commission	24
4. Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training	26
4.1. Queensland Treasury – Motor Accident Insurance Commission/Nominal Defendant	27
4.1.1. Budget overview	27
4.2. Department of Trade, Employment and Training	28
4.2.1. Budget overview	29
i. Trends in Vote	29
4.2.2. Capital program	30
4.2.3. Budget Highlights – Department of Trade, Employment and Training	30
4.2.4. Matters raised during the Estimates Process	31
4.3. Trade and Investment Queensland	33
4.3.1. Budget overview	33
4.3.2. Matters raised during the Estimates Process	34
4.4. TAFE Queensland	34
4.4.1. Budget overview	34
4.4.2. Capital program	35
Statement of Reservation	36

Chair's Foreword

This report presents a summary of the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee's (committee) examination of the Appropriation Bill 2025 and budget estimates for the committee's portfolio areas for the 2025-26 financial year.

Consideration of these estimates allows for the public examination of the proposed expenditure through questioning of responsible Ministers and other officials during a public hearing, and through a question on notice process.

The committee has recommended that the proposed expenditure, as detailed in the Appropriation Bill 2025 for the committee's areas of responsibility, be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly.

On behalf of the committee, I thank the Premier and Minister for Veterans, the Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership, and the Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training, departmental officers, and portfolio entity chief executives and their staff, for their co-operation in providing information to the committee throughout this process.

I would also like to thank the members of the committee for their contributions to the estimates process, as well as other members whose participation in the hearing provided additional scrutiny of the estimates.

Finally, I thank the committee's secretariat and other Parliamentary Service staff for their assistance.

I commend this report to the House.



Michael Crandon MP

Chair

Executive Summary

On 24 June 2025, the Honourable David Janetzki MP, Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership introduced the Appropriation Bill 2025 (Bill) into the Legislative Assembly. The Bill was referred to the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee (committee) for consideration.

The estimates process is one of the key mechanisms to examine government expenditure, performance and effectiveness. By examining and reporting on the proposed expenditures contained in the Bill, the committee assists the Parliament in its scrutiny of the Government's proposed expenditure.

The Appropriation for 2025-26 is \$105,417,248,000.¹

The committee's examination of the Bill is in relation to the:

- Department of the Premier and Cabinet
- Public Sector Commission
- Office of the Governor
- Queensland Audit Office
- Queensland Treasury
- Department of Trade, Employment and Training.²

The committee conducted public hearings and took evidence about the proposed expenditure from the:

- Premier and Minister for Veterans and other witnesses on 29 July 2025
- Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership and other witnesses on 29 July 2025
- Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training and other witnesses on 30 July 2025.

This report summarises the estimates referred to the committee and highlights some of the issues the committee examined including information contained in the:

- budget papers
- answers to pre-hearing questions on notice
- evidence taken at the hearing.

The committee made one recommendation (found at page vi of this report) that the proposed expenditure, as detailed in the Bill for the committee's areas of responsibility, be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly without amendment.

¹ Appropriation Bill 2025, s 2.

² Standing Orders, sch 6; Appropriation Bill 2025, sch 1.

Recommendation

Recommendation 1 4

The committee recommends that the proposed expenditure, as detailed in the Appropriation Bill 2025 for the committee's areas of responsibility, be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly without amendment.

Glossary

Commission	Queensland Productivity Commission
committee	Governance, Energy and Finance Committee
CTP	Compulsory Third Party
DPC	Department of the Premier and Cabinet
DTET	Department of Trade, Employment and Training
GOC	Government Owned Corporation
IDF	Israel Defense Forces
MAI Act	<i>Motor Accident Insurance Act 1994</i>
MAIC	Motor Accident Insurance Commission
Minister	Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training
MYFER	Mid-Year Fiscal and Economic Review
Office	Office of the Governor
Premier	Premier and Minister for Veterans
Productivity Commission Act	<i>Queensland Productivity Commission Act 2025</i>
PSC	Public Sector Commission
QAO	Queensland Audit Office
QIC	Queensland Investment Corporation Limited
QTC	Queensland Treasury Corporation
SDS	Service Delivery Statement
Strategy	Queensland Trade and Investment Strategy 2022-2032
TIQ	Trade and Investment Queensland
Treasurer	Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership

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1. Overview of the Budget Estimates Process

The Appropriation Bill 2025 (Bill) was introduced by the Honourable David Janetzki MP, Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership on 24 June 2025 and was referred to the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee (committee) by the Legislative Assembly on 27 June 2025.

The estimates process is one of the key mechanisms to examine government expenditure, performance and effectiveness. By examining and reporting on the proposed expenditures contained in the Bill, the committee assists the Parliament in its scrutiny of the Government's proposed expenditure.

The Appropriation for 2025-26 is \$105,417,248,000.³

The committee's examination of the Bill is in relation to the:

- Department of the Premier and Cabinet
- Public Sector Commission
- Office of the Governor
- Queensland Audit Office
- Queensland Treasury
- Department of Trade, Employment and Training.⁴

The table and figure below set out the appropriations examined by the committee:

Table 1: All appropriations examined by the committee in this report, 2025-26

Department or entity	Vote 2025-26 (\$'000)
Queensland Treasury	18,026,717
Department of Trade, Employment and Training	1,589,359
Department of the Premier and Cabinet	218,983
Public Sector Commission	19,087
Office of the Governor	11,002
Queensland Audit Office	8,216
Total appropriation examined in this report	19,873,364

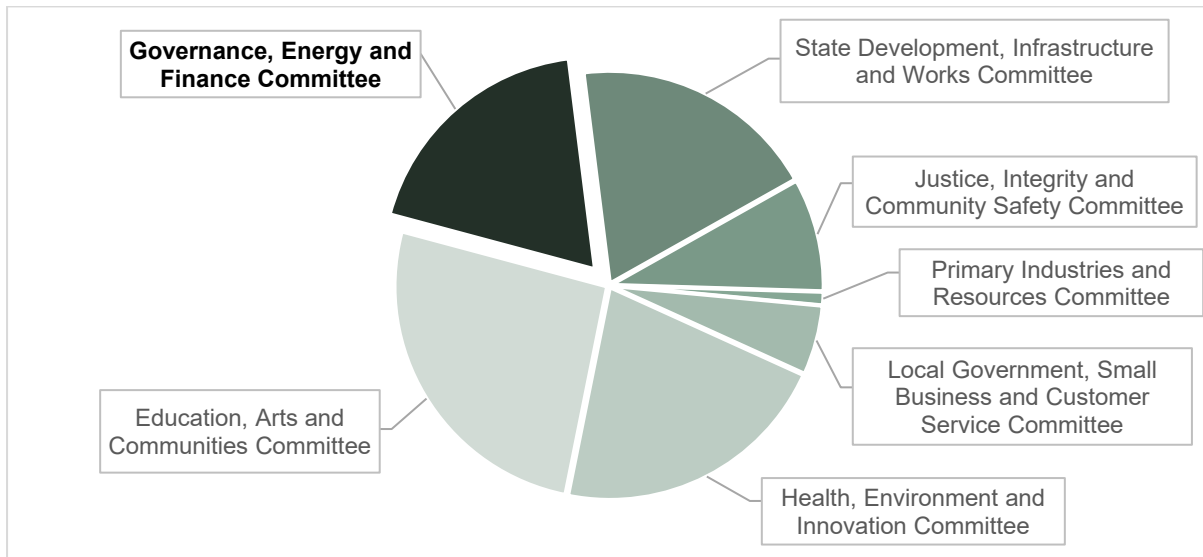
Source: Appropriation Bill 2025; Standing Orders, sch 6.

Note: The committee is also responsible for examining appropriations proposed by the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2025.

³ Appropriation Bill 2025, s 2.

⁴ Standing Orders, sch 6; Appropriation Bill 2025, sch 1.

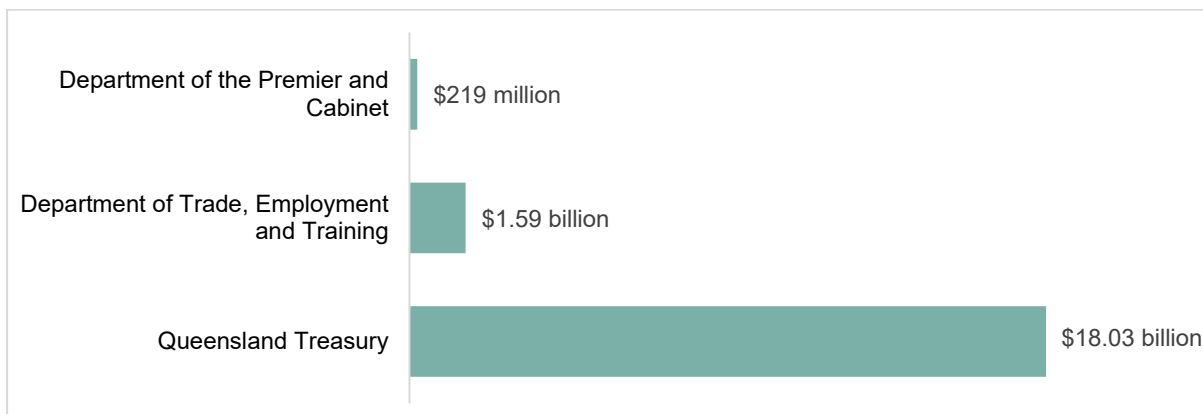
Figure 1. Budget appropriations by portfolio committee, 2025-26



Source: Appropriation Bill 2025.

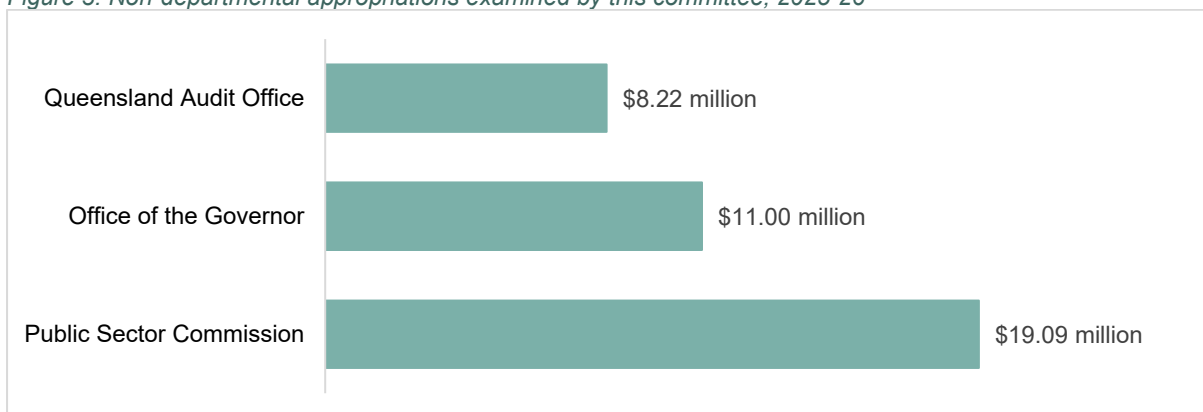
The figures below illustrate the departmental appropriations and non-departmental appropriations examined by this committee:

Figure 2: Departmental appropriations examined by this committee, 2025-26



Source: Appropriation Bill 2025.

Figure 3: Non-departmental appropriations examined by this committee, 2025-26



Source: Appropriation Bill 2025.

1.1. Inquiry Process

The committee conducted public hearings and took evidence about the proposed expenditure from the:

- Premier and Minister for Veterans (Premier) and Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership (Treasurer) and other witnesses on 29 July 2025
- Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training (Minister) and other witnesses on 30 July 2025.⁵

This report summarises the estimates referred to the committee and highlights some of the issues the committee examined. The committee considered information contained in the:

- budget papers
- answers to pre-hearing questions on notice
- evidence taken at the hearing.

Prior to the public hearing, the committee provided the Premier, Treasurer and Minister with questions on notice in relation to the estimates. Responses to all questions were received.

A list of any substitute Members and Members granted leave to ask questions at the committee's hearings, answers to the committee's pre-hearing questions on notice and documents tabled during the hearing are included in a volume of additional information tabled with this report.

1.2. Participation by other Members of Parliament

At the public hearing on 29 July 2025, the following members substituted for Mr Lance McCallum MP, Member for Bundamba, pursuant to Standing Order 202 at various times:

- Hon Steven Miles MP, Leader of the Opposition and Member for Murrumba
- Mr Bart Mellish MP, Member for Aspley
- Hon Shannon Fentiman MP, Member for Waterford
- Hon Meaghan Scanlon MP, Member for Gaven.

The committee also gave leave for other non-committee Members of the Legislative Assembly to participate in the hearings pursuant to Standing Order 181(e).

The following non-committee Members participated in the public hearing sessions:

- Hon Grace Grace MP, Member for McConnel
- Hon Mark Ryan MP, Member for Morayfield

⁵ Hansard, Record of Proceedings, Estimates Hearings – 29 July 2025, Brisbane, pp 1-43 (Premier), pp 44-87 (Treasurer); Hansard, Record of Proceedings, Estimates Hearings – 30 July 2025, Brisbane.

- Mr Michael Healy MP, Member for Cairns
- Dr Christian Rowan MP, Leader of the House and Member for Moggill
- Mr Michael Berkman MP, Member for Maiwar.

1.3. Should the proposed expenditure be agreed to?

In accordance with Standing Order 187(1), the committee is required to determine and report on whether the proposed expenditures referred to it are agreed to.

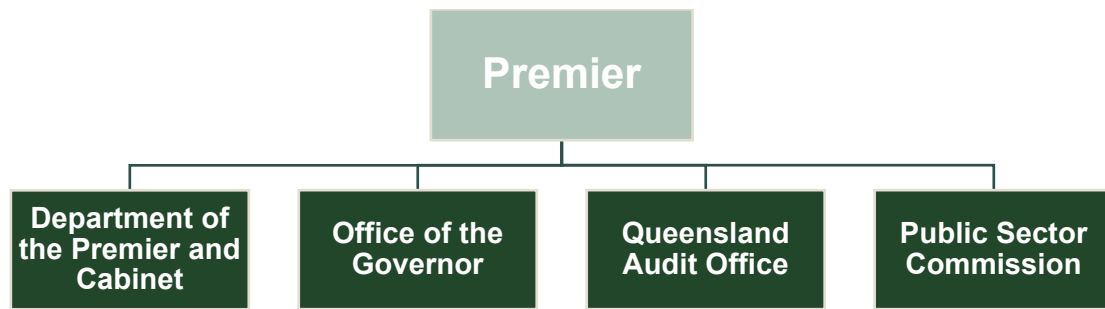


Recommendation 1

The committee recommends that the proposed expenditure, as detailed in the Appropriation Bill 2025 for the committee's areas of responsibility, be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly without amendment.

2. Premier and Minister for Veterans

The Premier has responsibility for the following agencies, services and statutory entities:⁶



To assist the committee with its consideration of portfolio estimates, and in keeping with the requirements of schedule 7 of the Standing Orders, the Office of the Governor, Queensland Audit Office and Public Sector Commission were present at the hearing on 29 July 2025.⁷

2.1. Department of the Premier and Cabinet

The Honourable David Crisafulli MP, Premier, is the Minister responsible for the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC). DPC is the lead, central agency of the Queensland Public Service, with 5 service areas as follows:

- Government Decision Support (formerly Policy Advice and Coordination, and Cabinet Support)
- Government Service Delivery Implementation Support
- Government Support and Advisory Services
- Engagement and Events Support
- Legislative Drafting and e-Publishing.⁸

The department's objectives include:

- outstanding advice supporting good decision-making
- better service delivery for Queenslanders
- an accountable and effective government
- an informed and connected Queensland
- excellence in legislative drafting and access.⁹

⁶ Queensland Budget 2025-26, Service Delivery Statements (SDS), Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC), p (i).

⁷ Schedule 7 of the Standing Orders sets out a list of statutory entities to which direct questioning of chief executives at estimates applies.

⁸ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DPC, pp 3-7.

⁹ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DPC, p 1.

As part of the machinery-of-government changes effective 1 November 2024, the following changes were made to the functions of DPC:

- Office of the Queensland Cross-Border Commissioner was received from the former Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water
- Office for Veterans was received from the former Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities and the Arts
- Office of First Nations Engagement and Innovation was transferred to the Department of Women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Multiculturalism
- Office of the Queensland Integrity Commissioner was transferred to the Department of Justice.¹⁰

2.1.1. Budget overview

The Bill proposes that DPC receive a total appropriation of \$219 million in 2025-26.¹¹

The following table taken from the Bill illustrates the combined total of the cash appropriations for the department for 2025-26, compared with the budgeted and estimated actual cash appropriations for DPC in 2024-25.

Appropriations	Budget 2024-25 \$'000	Est. Actual 2024-25 \$'000	Vote 2025-26 \$'000
<i>Controlled Items</i>			
departmental services	128,657	112,475	141,067
equity adjustment	2	38	2
<i>Administered Items</i>	76,364	75,576	77,914
Vote	205,023	188,089	218,983

Source: Appropriation Bill 2025, sch 2, p 12.


As highlighted in the table, the total combined 2025-26 appropriation of \$219 million represents an increase of \$14 million on last year's budgeted appropriations, and \$30.9 million on the estimated actual total appropriations for the department in 2024-25.

¹⁰ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DPC, p 1.

¹¹ Appropriation Bill 2025, Schedule 1, p 7.

i. Trends in Vote

For comparison, the table below shows the amount sought in the Budget 2025 for the Vote against spending over the previous 3 years.

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
	Est. Actual \$,000	Est. Actual \$,000	Est. Actual \$,000	Est. Sought \$,000
	243,357	229,240	188,089	218,983
<i>Percentage Change</i>		-5.80	-17.95	16.43

Committee comment

As a consequence of the recent machinery-of-government changes, the committee accepts that figures from previous budgets are not directly comparable with those of 2025-26.

The proposed total income of \$157.1 million includes \$141.1 million in appropriation revenue (including State and Australian Government funding) and \$16 million in other revenue.¹² The proposed \$157.1 million in departmental expenses represents an increase of almost \$1 million on estimated actual departmental spending in 2024-25.¹³

The estimated \$77.9 million in administered expenses represents an almost \$2 million increase on DPC's 2024-25 estimated actual expenditure (\$75.9 million) and 2024-25 adjusted budget for these expenses (\$76 million).¹⁴ Administered expenses in the 2025-26 budget include:

- \$73.3 million for Ministerial Offices and the Office of the Leader of the Opposition, with the increase primarily due to the impact of enterprise bargaining arrangements
- \$4.6 million in grant funding to the Queensland Veterans' Council to deliver the Anzac Day Trust Fund program and the management of the Anzac Square and its Memorial Galleries.¹⁵

2.1.2. Capital program

DPC (including Ministerial Offices and the Office of the Leader of the Opposition) has planned capital purchases of \$559,000 in 2025-26 for ongoing upgrades and enhancements of departmental ICT systems and other minor works.¹⁶

Further, funding of \$350,000 in the 2025-26 budget is for capital grants honouring Queensland's veterans.¹⁷

¹² Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DPC, p 8.

¹³ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DPC, pp 8, 10.

¹⁴ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DPC, p 8.

¹⁵ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DPC, p 10.

¹⁶ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DPC, p 9.

¹⁷ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DPC, p 9.

2.1.3. Budget Highlights – Department of the Premier and Cabinet

The 2025-26 budget highlights for DPC include:¹⁸

Delivering programs and services to support and honour veterans and their families in Queensland	\$19 million over 4 years
To the Queensland Veterans' Council for maintenance and management, visitor and curatorial services for Anzac Square and its Memorial Galleries.	\$7.4 million over 5 years and \$1.8 million per annum ongoing
Construction of the statue in honour of the late Dr Merle Thornton AM, to be delivered in partnership with Department of Women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Multiculturalism.	\$500,000 in 2025–26

2.1.4. Matters raised during the Estimates Process

Matters raised during the committee's examination of DPC are below:

Matter Description	Pre-Hearing QoN	Transcript Page No
Reforming the Estimates process	1	5
Reasoning behind the Government's objectives for the community	2	-
Respect for taxpayers' money and laying the foundation for fiscal repair	3	30
Delivering a plan for Queensland's future	4	-
Delivering health services	5	17
Community safety	6	-
Cost of living relief	7	5-6, 24-25, 28-29, 30-31, 42
Housing supply, home ownership and homelessness	8	-
Supporting and honouring veterans and their families	9	-
Supporting the public service	10	-
Value of contracts with news publishers and media outlets	11	-
Contractors employed or engaged by DPC and contracts entered into with the Big 4 consulting firms	12	-

¹⁸ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DPC, p 2.

Matter Description	Pre-Hearing QoN	Transcript Page No
Staffing of Ministerial offices	13	-
Government spending on polling, market research and concept testing	14	33
Cost of catering for Cabinet and Cabinet Committee meetings	15	-
Rebranding from the proclaimed state colour of maroon to blue	16	14
Position of 'Deputy Director-General, Strategic Communications'	17	15-16
Cap on the number of non-frontline senior executives at current levels until 2028	18	15
Funding for the Oasis Townsville Centre	19	-
Carry over of budget surplus of Ministerial Offices from the previous to new financial year	20	-
Number of public servants that worked on the budget and preparing for estimates within the DPC portfolio and across government	-	4, 42
Responsibility for decisions and outcomes of the budget	-	4-5
Declarations by members of parliament regarding use of parliamentary accommodation for private or family use	-	6-7
DPC staff who have been dismissed or had their contracts terminated since the Crisafulli LNP government took office	-	7, 9-10
Victims of crime, including addressing crime and indicators to measure the number of victims of crime	-	7-8, 11-12, 28
Police resources and facilities	-	8
Wage agreement with the Queensland Police Union and the Queensland Police Commissioned Officers Union	-	8-9, 26-27
Political links of directors-general	-	10
List of public servants that the Premier wants sacked or removed	-	10

Matter Description	Pre-Hearing QoN	Transcript Page No
Early intervention and rehabilitation for offenders	-	12
Regional Reset program	-	12-13
Youth justice reforms including Men of Business	-	13-14
Directive to public servants to remove acknowledgement of country from email signatures	-	14-15
Use of QGAir	-	15, 42
Meeting with Hon Scott Morrison AC	-	16
Hospital Rescue Plan	-	16-17
Real-time health data	-	17-18
Expansion of mental health care	-	18
Meeting with Brittany Higgins	-	19-20
Special Commissioner, Equity and Diversity	-	20-21
Directive issued by Director-General of Queensland Health regarding provision of gender-affirming care	-	21-22
Budget deliverables for the electorate of Caloundra	-	22-23
Upgrades to the Bruce Highway	-	23
Public transport on the Sunshine Coast	-	23-24
Transport infrastructure updates for electorate of Coomera	-	24
Rail maintenance facility at Ormeau	-	24
Patients' tax	-	24-25
Preparedness for flu season	-	25-26
Pay and conditions for nurses and midwives	-	27
Financial support for families with children	-	29
Permanency of budget initiatives	-	29-30
New spinal unit at Princess Alexandra Hospital	-	31
Impacts of delay to Queensland Cancer Centre	-	31

Matter Description	Pre-Hearing QoN	Transcript Page No
Link between emergency department funding and achievement of KPIs	-	31-32
Termination of pregnancy by court order	-	32
Release of concept testing for communication campaigns	-	33-34
Pumicestone Passage	-	34
Train manufacturing in electorate of Maryborough	-	34
Support for vulnerable Queenslanders	-	34-35
TAFE Centre of Excellence in Caloundra	-	35
Upgrades to schools on the Gold Coast	-	35-36
Cost of managerial training	-	36
Amount spent on termination payments for ministerial staff	-	36-37
CopperString	-	37
Closure of Toowong Private Hospital	-	38-39
Mental health services for veterans	-	39
Meetings and consultation with ex-service organisations and veterans' support groups	-	39
Implementation of recommendations of Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide	-	39-40
Movement of Office for Veterans into DPC	-	40
Queensland Veterans' Council	-	40-41
New Premier's Veterans' Fund	-	41
Support for key commemorative events and memorials for veterans	-	41
Funding for memorials and veterans' infrastructure on the Gold Coast	-	41-42

2.2. Public Sector Commission

The role of the Public Sector Commission (PSC) is 'to support public sector agencies to continually improve their workforce and workplaces'.¹⁹ According to the SDS, the PSC's

¹⁹ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DPC, p 18.

strategic priorities are to:

- deliver outcomes that support a culture of performance and integrity across the sector
- support agencies to deliver government priorities
- build the foundations and capabilities the PSC needs to better support the sector.²⁰

2.2.1. Budget overview


The following table taken from the Bill illustrates the combined total of the cash appropriations for the PSC for 2025-26, compared with the budgeted and estimated actual cash appropriations for the PSC in 2024-25.

Appropriations	Budget 2024-25 \$'000	Est. Actual 2024-25 \$'000	Vote 2025-26 \$'000
<i>Controlled Items</i>			
departmental services	25,701	25,552	19,087
equity adjustment	..	(36)	..
<i>Administered Items</i>	..	..	..
Vote	25,701	25,516	19,087

Source: Appropriation Bill 2025, sch 2, p 16.

i. Trends in Vote

For comparison, the table below shows the amount sought in the Bill for the Vote against spending over the previous 3 years.

	2022/23 Est. Actual \$,000	2023/24 Est. Actual \$,000	2024/25 Est. Actual \$,000	2025/26 Est. Sought \$,000
	16,019	17,338	25,516	19,087
<i>Percentage Change</i>		8.23	47.17	-25.20

The PSC's operating expenses for 2025-6 are estimated to be \$20.6 million,²¹ a decrease of \$8 million from the 2024-25 estimated actual. The SDS states the decrease is 'primarily due to the additional funding in 2024-25 for the Queensland Complaints Clearinghouse Foundation Stage of \$6.2 million, one-off funding for Even Better Strategy and other initiatives of \$2.0 million'. This is offset by 'the transfer of funding from 2025-26 from the Department of Women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and

²⁰ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DPC, pp 18, 19.

²¹ Which includes the \$19.1 million in appropriation revenue and \$1.5 million in other revenue: Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DPC, p 20.

Multiculturalism to manage the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Career Pathways Service (\$309,000)'.²²

2.2.2. Matters raised during the Estimates Process

Matters raised during the committee's examination of the PSC are listed below:

Matter Description	Pre-Hearing QoN	Transcript Page No
Recruitment of a senior Channel 9 news reporter to a strategic communications role in DPC	-	16
State of the Sector reporting	-	19
Changes to the independence of the PSC	-	19
Role of Special Commissioner, Equity and Diversity	-	20

2.3. Office of the Governor

The Premier also has ministerial responsibility for the budget of the Office of the Governor (Office) which has a separate appropriation.

The Office is an independent entity that provides executive, administrative, logistical and personal support for the Governor. It enables the Governor to effectively exercise their constitutional powers and responsibilities, and to undertake constitutional and ceremonial duties and community activities. The Office is also responsible for stewardship of the Government House Estate in partnership with the Department of Housing and Public Works.²³

2.3.1. Budget overview

The following table taken from the Bill illustrates the combined total of the cash appropriations for the Office for 2025-26, compared with the budgeted and estimated actual cash appropriations for the Office in 2024-25.

Appropriations	Budget 2024-25 \$'000	Est. Actual 2024-25 \$'000	Vote 2025-26 \$'000
<i>Controlled Items</i>			
departmental services	11,031	11,031	11,002
equity adjustment	..	..	..
<i>Administered Items</i>	..	..	..
Vote	11,031	11,031	11,002


Source: Appropriation Bill 2025, sch 2, p 15.

²² Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DPC, p 22.

²³ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DPC, p 27.

i. Trends in Vote

For comparison, the table below shows the amount sought in the Bill for the Vote against spending over the previous 3 years.

	2022/23 Est. Actual \$,000	2023/24 Est. Actual \$,000	2024/25 Est. Actual \$,000	2025/26 Est. Sought \$,000
	11,292	10,335	11,031	11,002
Percentage Change		-8.48	6.73	-0.26

For 2025-26, the total proposed appropriation is \$11 million, a decrease of \$3.1 million from the 2024-25 estimated actual (being \$14.1 million which includes the appropriation revenue of \$11 million and deferred income from 2023-24).²⁴ The SDS attributes the decrease in 2025-26 budgeted revenue and expenses primarily to funds deferred from 2023-24 for projects on the Government House Estate during 2024-25.²⁵

2.3.2. Capital program

The Office's capital program primarily concerns replacement of vehicles, plant and equipment.²⁶

The Office conducts a full valuation of its Heritage and Cultural Assets every 5 years, with market assessments undertaken in the intervening years. The most recent full valuation was completed for the financial year ending 30 June 2021, with the next comprehensive valuation due during 2025-26.²⁷

2.4. Queensland Audit Office

The Queensland Audit Office (QAO) is Parliament's independent auditor of Queensland's state and local government public sector entities.

The SDS states:

QAO's unique position means it has visibility across the public sector of matters that impact financial performance. Its audit mandate provides it with access to the information it needs to develop an evidence-based understanding of operating performance.²⁸

According to the SDS, the QAO is working towards its objective of providing assurance to Parliament on the management of public resources through:

- trusted, impactful work
- contemporary, quality audits

²⁴ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DPC, p 31.

²⁵ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DPC, p 31.

²⁶ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DPC, p 31.

²⁷ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DPC, p 31.

²⁸ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DPC, p 36.

- capable, empowered people.²⁹

2.4.1. Budget overview

The following table taken from the Bill illustrates the combined total of the cash appropriations for the QAO for 2025-26, compared with the budgeted and estimated actual cash appropriations for the QAO in 2024-25.


Appropriations	Budget 2024-25 \$'000	Est. Actual 2024-25 \$'000	Vote 2025-26 \$'000
<i>Controlled Items</i>			
departmental services	8,090	8,090	8,216
equity adjustment	..	..	..
<i>Administered Items</i>	..	..	..
Vote	8,090	8,090	8,216

Source: Appropriation Bill 2025, sch 2, p 16.

The table above shows a \$126,000 difference between the proposed appropriation for 2025-26 and the 2024-25 estimated actual amount.

i. Trends in Vote

For comparison, the table below shows the amount sought in the Bill for the Vote against spending over the previous 3 years.

	2022/23 Est. Actual \$,000	2023/24 Est. Actual \$,000	2024/25 Est. Actual \$,000	2025/26 Est. Sought \$,000
	7,301	8,128	8,090	8,216
<i>Percentage Change</i>		11.33	-0.47	1.56

The QAO's total income is estimated to be \$58.2 million in 2025-26, an increase of \$1.7 million from 2024-25 estimated actual. According to the SDS, this increase primarily reflects the impact of the increase in QAO's charge out rates from 1 October 2024 and some additional revenue from providing assurance over new climate-related disclosures.³⁰

Total expenses are estimated to be \$58 million in 2025-26, an increase of \$2.3 million from the 2024-25 estimated actual.³¹ According to the SDS, the main drivers behind the increase in expenses is 'an increase in employee expenses, driven by an increase in the

²⁹ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DPC, p 36.

³⁰ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DPC, p 41.

³¹ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DPC, p 41.

number of employees, to address recommendations from the 2023 Strategic Review of QAO, and an increase in salary rates in line with state agreements'.³²

2.4.2. Matters raised during the Estimates Process

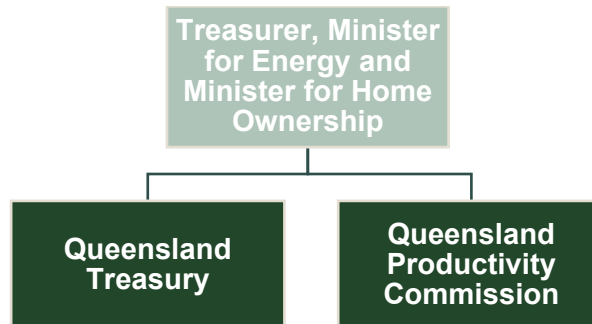
Matters raised during the committee's examination of the QAO are listed below:

Matter Description	Pre-Hearing QoN	Transcript Page No
Forward work program and auditing of major infrastructure and public-private partnership projects	-	32
Public release of maintenance costs for infrastructure projects	-	32
Disclosure of land values as part of cost of infrastructure projects	-	33
Costs of contractors and consultants in <i>State entities 2024</i> report	-	36, 42

³² Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DPC, p 41.

3. Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership

The Honourable David Janetzki MP, Treasurer, has responsibility for the following agencies, services and statutory entities:



In addition, the Treasurer is responsible for the administration of legislation including the *Queensland Investment Corporation Act 1991*, *Queensland Treasury Corporation Act 1988*, *South East Queensland Water (Restructuring) Act 2007* and *Energy and Water Ombudsman Act 2009*.³³ This legislation governs the operations of the:

- Queensland Investment Corporation Limited (QIC)³⁴
- Queensland Treasury Corporation (QTC)
- Queensland Bulk Water Supply Authority (Seqwater) (being a statutory entity with commercial operations)³⁵
- Energy and Water Ombudsman.

The Treasurer is also a shareholding minister of the following entities:

- CS Energy Limited
- Stanwell Corporation Limited
- CleanCo Queensland Limited
- Queensland Electricity Transmission Corporation Limited (Powerlink Queensland)
- Energy Queensland Limited.³⁶

The Treasurer is also the responsible minister for the Queensland Rail Transit Authority (Queensland Rail).³⁷

³³ Administrative Arrangements Order (No. 3) 2024, pp 6-9. The Treasurer jointly administers the *Energy and Water Ombudsman Act 2006* with the Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers.

³⁴ The Treasurer is also a shareholding minister.

³⁵ In conjunction with the Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers.

³⁶ Queensland Treasury, Government Owned Corporations, 30 July 2025, <https://www.treasury.qld.gov.au/queenslands-economy/government-owned-corporations/>.

³⁷ In conjunction with the Minister for Transport and Main Roads.

In keeping with the requirements of schedule 7 of the Standing Orders, the chief executives of each of these entities were present at the hearing on 29 July 2025 to assist the committee with its consideration of the portfolio estimates.

3.1. Queensland Treasury

Treasury's vision is for a 'strong economy with affordable, reliable and sustainable energy for all Queenslanders, which is guided by a purpose of delivering government priorities through thought leadership and expert advice across economic, energy and revenue related services'.³⁸

Treasury's objectives of growing the Queensland economy and stimulating jobs, driving Queensland's pathway to an affordable, reliable and sustainable energy system, delivering fiscal sustainability, and influencing public sector improvements are coordinated via Treasury's 6 service areas:

- economics and statistical services³⁹
- fiscal
- agency performance
- energy and climate⁴⁰
- commercial and investment
- revenue management.⁴¹

The objectives of these service areas are to:

- support well-researched analysis, policies, and strategies to further the sustainability and productivity of the Queensland economy and help address housing affordability and support home ownership
- manage the long-term sustainability of Queensland's fiscal position and lead the statewide approach in managing the balance sheet and operating statement
- deliver high-quality analysis and advice to key stakeholders that supports public policy development and implementation and considers economic, fiscal and policy issues and risks
- lead the energy and climate sectors to drive affordable, reliable and sustainable outcomes for Queensland households and businesses

³⁸ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, Queensland Treasury (Treasury), p 1.

³⁹ Renamed from 'Economics and productivity' to reflect the transfer of the Office of Productivity and Red Tape Reduction from the service area to the re-established Queensland Productivity Commission: Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, Treasury, p 3.

⁴⁰ As part of the machinery-of-government changes effective 1 November 2024, the previous 'Grow Queensland through a clean economy' service area transferred from the former Department of Energy and Climate and has been re-named to 'Energy and climate': Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, Treasury, p 6.

⁴¹ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, Treasury, pp 1, 3-9.

- pursue investment opportunities for Queensland to support long-term economic growth and create jobs
- optimise the state's revenue base through best practice revenue, fines, grants and debt recovery administration.⁴²

As part of the machinery-of-government changes effective 1 November 2024, there were changes to the following Queensland Treasury functions:

- the energy and climate functions were received from the former Department of Energy and Climate
- administrative responsibility for Trade and Investment Queensland transferred to the Department of Trade, Employment and Training
- the Major Projects Development function transferred to the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning.⁴³

3.1.1. Budget overview

The following table taken from the Bill illustrates the combined total of the cash appropriations for Treasury for 2025-26, compared with the budgeted and estimated actual cash appropriations for Treasury in 2024-25.

Appropriations	Budget 2024-25 \$'000	Est. Actual 2024-25 \$'000	Vote 2025-26 \$'000
<i>Controlled Items</i>			
departmental services	537,520	626,080	882,846
equity adjustment	135,807	121,572	7,371
<i>Administered Items</i>	8,492,988	11,898,579	17,136,500
Vote	9,166,315	12,646,231	18,026,717

Source: Appropriation Bill 2025, sch 2, p 18.

The table shows that the total combined 2025-26 appropriation of \$18 billion represents an increase of almost \$8.9 billion on last year's budgeted appropriations, and \$5.4 billion on the estimated actual total appropriations for Treasury in 2024-25.⁴⁴


⁴² Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, Treasury, pp 1, 3-9.

⁴³ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, Treasury, p 1.

⁴⁴ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, Treasury, pp 10, 15-20.

i. Trends in Vote

For comparison, the table below shows the amount sought in the Bill for the Vote against spending over the previous 3 years.

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
	Est. Actual \$,000	Est. Actual \$,000	Est. Actual \$,000	Est. Sought \$,000
	7,836,466	8,903,097	12,646,231	18,026,717
<i>Percentage Change</i>		13.61	42.04	42.55

Committee comment

As a consequence of the recent machinery-of-government changes, the committee accepts that figures from previous budgets are not directly comparable with those of 2025-26.

Treasury's total expenses are estimated to be \$931.4 million in 2025-26, an increase of \$164.2 million from the estimated actual in 2024-25. The SDS states this is mainly due to 'higher grant payments associated with the Invested in Queensland Program, Low Emissions Investment Partnerships and Queensland Critical Minerals and Battery Technology Fund'.⁴⁵ Also contributing to the increase are 'the additional costs associated with the Social Entrepreneurs Fund and Supercharged Solar for Renters Program, and provisional costs for Queensland Revenue Office to deliver a streamlined, integrated fine and penalty debt system'.⁴⁶

According to the SDS, this is partially offset by the reduction in costs over time for the Regional Economic Futures Fund and the contribution towards the CopperString Project, along with the finalisation of the Queensland Business Energy Saving and Transformation Program.⁴⁷

Treasury oversees significant administered revenue and expenses on behalf of the government. The department receives a large proportion of the state's taxation, royalties and Australian Government revenue which is used to fund government priorities. The department also administers major grant programs and provides funding to the Queensland Competition Authority and the Queensland Productivity Commission. In addition, the department supports equitable electricity prices for regional Queensland customers and government-owned corporations delivery through Community Service Obligation payments.⁴⁸

⁴⁵ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, Treasury, p 14.

⁴⁶ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, Treasury, p 14.

⁴⁷ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, Treasury, p 14.

⁴⁸ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, Treasury, p 14.

Total administered revenue is expected to be almost \$70.4 billion, which includes Commonwealth revenue, appropriation revenue (state and Australian Government funding) and other administered revenue.⁴⁹

3.1.2. Budget Highlights – Queensland Treasury

The 2025-26 budget highlights for Treasury include:⁵⁰

Providing permanent exemptions for payroll tax for payments by medical practices to general practitioners	\$538 million over 5 years from 2024-25
Providing a full transfer duty concession for eligible first home buyers purchasing newly built homes or vacant land on which to build a new home from 1 May 2025	\$195 million over 5 years from 2024-25
Empowering social enterprises to change the lives of Queenslanders who need it most	\$80 million over 4 years from 2025-26 and \$20 million per annum ongoing
Extending the temporary \$15,000 boost of the First Home Owner Grant to a total grant value of \$30,000 for 12 months until 30 June 2026 (inclusive)	\$60.1 million over 4 years
Providing a 12-month extension to the payroll tax rebate for apprentice and trainee wages to support skills development	\$58.1 million
Providing a rebate of up to \$3,500 to eligible landlords to install solar panels on rental properties to lower power prices for Queensland renters	\$26.3 million over 3 years from 2025-26
Restoring the delivery of the Electricity Tariff Adjustment Scheme for regional farmers and large regional business customers who were affected by the phase out of obsolete tariffs	\$20.6 million over 5 years from 2025-26

3.1.3. Capital program

Treasury has capital grants of \$169.1 million and capital purchases of \$16.1 million in 2025-26 comprising:

- \$146.6 million through the First Home Owner Grant to assist first home buyers
- \$22.5 million to support the delivery of a range of high value energy performance upgrades to households in both public and community social housing through the Social Housing Energy Performance Initiative
- \$16 million to enable core operations and infringement processing, including system upgrades and enhancements, to enable continued operations and future efficiency gains across the Camera Detected Offence Program
- \$70,000 to update Queensland Treasury's finance system with the latest technology and to align with SAP's continuous improvement roadmap.⁵¹

⁴⁹ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, Treasury, p 10.

⁵⁰ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, Treasury, p 2.

⁵¹ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, Treasury, p 12.

3.1.4. Matters raised during the Estimates Process

Matters raised during the committee's examination of Treasury are listed below:

Matter Description	Pre-Hearing QoN	Transcript Page No
Budget contributions to the electorate of Coomera	1	64-65
Budget contributions to the electorate of Maryborough	2	64
Budget contributions to the electorate of Caloundra	3	65
Explosion at the Callide C Power Station in April 2025	4, 11	73-77, 79-80, 87
Establishment of the Queensland Government Consulting Service	5, 12	50-51
Capping of the number of non-frontline senior executive service roles in the public service	6	-
Cost of living relief, including regulation of electricity pricing and energy rebates	7	46-48, 51-52
Cessation of the Pioneer-Burdekin Pumped Hydro project	8	-
Legacy funding shortfalls, underfunded services and programs and cost blowouts	9	-
CopperString project, including costs, update, QIC Limited involvement and change in scope	10	77-78, 80-82, 86
Implementation of the Auditor General's recommendation from <i>Major Projects 2023</i> in regard to strengthening disclosures in project summaries for public-private partnerships	13	-
Anticipated contingency reserve over the forward estimates	14	-
Long-term assets that form the \$5.35 billion transferred to the Debt Retirement Fund	15	-
Values of ex-gratia relief granted since 2021-22	16	-
First Home Owners Grant and stamp duty concessions	17	-
Funding for the Swim Start program	18	-

Matter Description	Pre-Hearing QoN	Transcript Page No
Supercharged Solar for Renters Program	19	84
Outstanding debtors for SPER	20	
Queensland's current fiscal position and budget and contrast to previous approaches	-	48-49
Non-financial public sector debt	-	50
Cessation of government fee freeze	-	52-53
Increase to driver's licence and car registration fees	-	53-54
Distribution of GST revenue by federal government	-	54-56
Productivity agenda, including Queensland Productivity Commission	-	56-57, 62-63
Contingency in budget for Queensland Police enterprise bargaining agreement and retention payment	-	57-58
Modelling of allowances changes if extended to nurses, teachers and paramedics	-	57-58
Stamp duty on insurance premiums	-	58
Savings on consultant costs	-	58-59
Replacement of locum doctors by Queensland Consulting Services	-	59
Allocations in 2024-25 Mid-Year Fiscal and Economic Review (MYFER), including underfunded legacy allowances	-	60-62, 67-68
Capital infrastructure program	-	63-64
Role of Treasury transactions team	-	65-66
Role of SPER in 'stamping out' illegal tobacco	-	66
Support for companies manufacturing or supplying weapons or weapons components for use by the Israel Defense Forces (IDF)	-	66-67, 86
Pathways Shared Equity Loan program	-	69, 86
Boost to Buy program	-	69-70, 71
Regional low-deposit home loan program	-	70, 86

Matter Description	Pre-Hearing QoN	Transcript Page No
Continuation of program to increase First Nations home ownership	-	70
Australian Housing and Urban Research housing supply and demand model for Queensland	-	70, 86
First home buyer concession holders currently renting out a room	-	70-71
Discussions with banks on behalf of first home buyers	-	71-72
Re-establishment of the Property Consultative Committee	-	72
Electricity Maintenance Guarantee	-	76-77
Hydrogen development in Queensland	-	78-79
Investment in gas	-	79-80
Closure of Glencore smelter	-	82, 85
Progression of smaller pumped hydro projects	-	82-83
Development of five-year Energy Roadmap	-	83-84
Advice from Queensland Productivity Commission on energy and emissions settings	-	84-85
Emissions reduction target and net zero	-	85

3.2. Queensland Productivity Commission

The Queensland Productivity Commission (Commission) is a statutory body established under the *Queensland Productivity Commission Act 2025* (Productivity Commission Act). It provides independent advice on economic, social and regulatory issues to the Queensland Government to lift productivity, drive economic growth and improve living standards in Queensland.⁵²

The Commission's activities focus on its 3 main legislated functions to:

- hold public inquiries into economic, social and regulatory issues
- provide research and advice on economic, social and regulatory issues
- administer, monitor or provide advice on best practice regulation.⁵³

⁵² Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, Treasury, p 32.

⁵³ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, Treasury, p 32.

The Commission aims to provide high quality advice based on robust, evidence-based analysis to inform the development of policy and regulation that supports the long-term interests of the Queensland community.⁵⁴

As mentioned earlier, funding for the Commission is administered by Treasury.⁵⁵

The key deliverables for the Commission in 2025-26 are:

- undertaking independent, in-depth reviews of complex economic, social and regulatory issues as prescribed under the Productivity Commission Act. This includes the inquiry into opportunities to improve construction sector productivity, and a direction to provide advice on energy policy and productivity
- providing advice, guidance and training on regulatory impact analysis to ensure regulatory proposals are carefully and fully assessed in accordance with the Queensland Government Better Regulation Policy
- managing oversight of the Queensland Government Regulator Performance Framework.⁵⁶

⁵⁴ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, Treasury, p 32.

⁵⁵ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, Treasury, p 14.

⁵⁶ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, Treasury, p 32.

4. Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training

The Honourable Ros Bates MP, Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training (Minister), has responsibility for the following agencies, services and statutory entities:



In addition, the Minister is responsible for the administration of legislation including the *Government Owned Corporations Act 1993*, *Motor Accident Insurance Act 1994* (MAI Act), *National Injury Insurance Scheme (Queensland) Act 2016*, *Queensland Competition Authority Act 1997* and *Further Education and Training Act 2014*.⁵⁷

This legislation governs the operations of:

- all government owned corporations (GOCs) for which the Minister is a shareholding minister⁵⁸
- the Motor Accident Insurance Commission/Nominal Defendant
- the National Injury Insurance Agency, Queensland
- the Queensland Competition Authority
- the Queensland Training Ombudsman.

In keeping with the requirements of schedule 7 of the Standing Orders, the chief executives of each of these entities were present at the hearing on 30 July 2025 to assist the committee with its consideration of the portfolio estimates.

⁵⁷ Administrative Arrangements Order (No. 3) 2024, pp 9-10.

⁵⁸ Shareholding with the Treasurer: CS Energy Limited, Stanwell Corporation Limited, CleanCo Queensland Limited, Queensland Electricity Transmission Corporation Limited (Powerlink Queensland), Energy Queensland Limited and QIC Limited. Shareholding with the Minister for Transport and Main Roads: Far North Queensland Ports Corporation Limited (Ports North), Gladstone Ports Corporation Limited, North Queensland Bulk Ports Corporation Limited and Port of Townsville Limited. Shareholding with the Minister for Local Government and Water and Minister for Fire, Disaster Recovery and Volunteers: Sunwater Limited. Queensland Treasury, Government Owned Corporations, 30 July 2025, <https://www.treasury.qld.gov.au/queenslands-economy/government-owned-corporations/>.

4.1. Queensland Treasury – Motor Accident Insurance Commission/Nominal Defendant

As part of the machinery-of-government changes effective 1 November 2024, Queensland Treasury maintained the Motor Accident Insurance Commission/Nominal Defendant's functions, but responsibility for these statutory bodies was transferred to the Minister from the Treasurer.

The Motor Accident Insurance Commission's (MAIC's) vision is that 'by 2026 claimants and motorists will benefit from improved experiences and outcomes through our leadership of an aligned and empowering scheme'.⁵⁹

4.1.1. Budget overview

The MAIC's estimated total income for 2025-26 is \$43.4 million, an increase of \$8.4 million from the 2024–25 Estimated Actual. The SDS states the increase is attributable to an increase in the Statutory Insurance Scheme levy per vehicle from \$2.00 in 2024–25 to \$4.00 in 2025–26, which is offset by a reduction in the projected QIC investment returns in 2025–26.⁶⁰

Total expenses for the MAIC are estimated to be \$50.3 million in 2025-26, an increase of \$8.1 million from the 2024-25 estimated actual. According to the SDS, this is primarily due to an increase in research and initiative investments to reduce the incidence and effects of road trauma to help injured people and premium affordability.⁶¹

The SDS identifies that a projected operating deficit of \$6.9 million is reflected in the movement in total equity.⁶²

The Nominal Defendant is a statutory body established under the MAI Act to compensate people injured by the negligent driving of unidentified motor vehicles and/ or motor vehicles without Compulsory Third Party (CTP) insurance.⁶³

The Nominal Defendant's estimated total income for 2025-26 is \$59.5 million, representing a decrease of \$22.2 million from the 2024-25 estimated actual. According to the SDS, this reflects a reduction in the projected QIC investment returns in 2025-26 and a reduction in the Nominal Defendant levy (the Nominal Defendant levy per policy Class 1 decreases from \$4.00 in 2024-25 to \$2.00 in 2025-26).⁶⁴ The SDS states the total budgeted expenditure of the Nominal Defendant of \$58.9 million, representing a \$6.7 million increase from 2024-25 estimated actual, is primarily due to an increase in estimated outstanding claims liability based on actuarial assessment.⁶⁵

⁵⁹ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, Treasury, p 21.

⁶⁰ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, Treasury, p 24.

⁶¹ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, Treasury, p 24.

⁶² Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, Treasury, p 24.

⁶³ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, Treasury, p 21.

⁶⁴ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, Treasury, p 28.

⁶⁵ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, Treasury, p 28.

4.2. Department of Trade, Employment and Training

The Department of Trade, Employment and Training's (DTET's) purpose is to strengthen economic opportunities for individuals, industry and communities through a skilled workforce, industry engagement and trade.⁶⁶

DTET has the following service areas:

- connecting and supporting Queenslanders with employment programs and services
- connecting Queenslanders to training and skills programs and initiatives.

The objectives of these service areas are to:

- increase employment opportunities for all Queenslanders, in particular disadvantaged cohorts, in partnership with industry, employers and communities through the delivery of targeted employment support programs
- regulate Queensland apprenticeships and traineeships and facilitate access to and participation in vocational education and training pathways, enabling Queenslanders to gain employment in current and future industries.⁶⁷

As part of the machinery-of-government changes effective 1 November 2024, the former Department of Employment, Small Business and Training was renamed as the Department of Trade, Employment and Training. As a result, there were changes to the following functions:

- Small Business was transferred to the Department of Customer Services, Open Data and Small and Family Business
- Office of the Night Life Economy Commissioner was transferred to the Department of Housing and Public Works.⁶⁸

⁶⁶ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, Department of Trade, Employment and Training (DTET), p 1.

⁶⁷ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DTET, pp 3, 4.

⁶⁸ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DTET, p 1.

4.2.1. Budget overview

The following table taken from the Bill illustrates the combined total of the cash appropriations for the DTET for 2025-26, compared with the budgeted and estimated actual cash appropriations for the department in 2024-25.


Appropriations	Budget 2024-25 \$'000	Est. Actual 2024-25 \$'000	Vote 2025-26 \$'000
<i>Controlled Items</i>			
departmental services	1,531,233	1,571,558	1,573,790
equity adjustment	(31,965)	(80,639)	(64,983)
<i>Administered Items</i>	..	33,190	80,552
Vote	1,499,268	1,524,109	1,589,359

Source: Appropriation Bill 2025, sch 2, p 13.

The table above shows the total combined 2025-26 appropriation of \$1.59 billion represents an increase of \$90.1 million on last year's budgeted appropriations, and \$65.3 million on the estimated actual total appropriations for the department in 2024-25.

i. Trends in Vote

For comparison, the table below shows the amount sought in the Bill for the Vote against spending over the previous three years.

	2022/23 Est. Actual \$,000	2023/24 Est. Actual \$,000	2024/25 Est. Actual \$,000	2025/26 Est. Sought \$,000
	1,297,450	1,656,099	1,524,109	1,589,359
<i>Percentage Change</i>		27.64	-7.96	4.28

DTET's 2025-26 total budget is \$1.6 billion of which 98.7 per cent is appropriation revenue. According to the SDS, the other revenue mainly relates to the TAFE Queensland contributions for the Southbank Education and Training Precinct Public Private Partnership.⁶⁹

The 2024-25 estimated actual total income was \$1.7 million, with the decrease in total revenue from 2024-25 estimated actual to the 2025-26 budget attributed to recent machinery-of-government changes with Small Business and the Office of the Night Life Economy Commissioner transitioning out of the department.⁷⁰

Grants and subsidies account for 78.4 per cent of the department's 2025-26 expenditure budget and mainly relate to vocational education and training subsidies.⁷¹

⁶⁹ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DTET, p 7

⁷⁰ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DTET, pp 7, 8.

⁷¹ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DTET, p 7.

4.2.2. Capital program

The capital program for the DTET is \$79 million in 2025-26 including:

- \$20 million to commence delivery of the new \$78 million Caloundra TAFE Centre of Excellence to focus on construction trades
- \$21.4 million for the Annual Training Infrastructure Program to renew and revitalise training infrastructure across the state, to improve accessibility to the necessary skills and training required to boost labour market productivity
- \$13.6 million to complete delivery of the expansion of the Great Barrier Reef International Marine College in Cairns
- \$6.6 million to commence delivery of the new \$60 million Moreton Bay TAFE Centre of Excellence which will include an Advanced Manufacturing Hub
- \$7.9 million to commence delivery of the new \$61.1 million state-of-the-art Rockhampton TAFE Excellence Precinct.⁷²

4.2.3. Budget Highlights – Department of Trade, Employment and Training

The 2025-26 budget highlights for DTET include:⁷³

Delivering a new state-of-the-art Rockhampton TAFE Excellence Precinct, allowing Rockhampton Hospital to benefit from expanded facilities at the existing Canning Street site, and unlock surplus land for 200 additional homes	\$61.1 million over 3 years
Delivering a new Caloundra TAFE Centre of Excellence on the Sunshine Coast to address labour skills shortages focusing on construction and manufacturing	\$78 million over 4 years
Constructing the new Moreton Bay TAFE Centre of Excellence which will include an Advanced Manufacturing Hub	\$60 million over 3 years
Supporting National Skills Agreement priorities for Queensland, including actions to build the VET workforce, initiatives to Close the Gap, and support best practice at TAFE	up to \$50 million held centrally
Increasing training opportunities for apprentices and trainees to meet growing workforce demand in critical sectors such as housing, healthcare and construction and prepare the workforce for the opportunities of the Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games	additional funding of \$40 million
Extending the delivery of the Free Apprentices for under 25s initiative, removing tuition fees for employers	\$10 million over 2 years
Guaranteeing 336 FTEs within TAFE Queensland whose positions were ceasing 30 June 2025, to ensure continued delivery of TAFE courses in Queensland	

⁷² Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DTET, p 6.

⁷³ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DTET, p 2.

4.2.4. Matters raised during the Estimates Process

Matters raised during the committee's examination of the Minister are below:

Matter Description	Pre-Hearing QoN	Transcript Page No
Government Owned Corporations' recruitment and engagement of new apprentices, trainees and cadets and direct employment of apprentices and trainees	1, 15	-
CTP insurance levies and administration fees for 2025-26	2	13
Queensland Government's regulatory framework and Office of Best Practice Regulation	3	-
Queensland's international trade partners and importance to economy	4	-
International trade missions, including costs and outcomes	5, 11	23-24
Queensland's international education and training sector, including the impact of any relevant Federal Government policies	6	-
Exhaustion of 2021-22 funding allocation for the Back to Work program	7	-
Skills shortage and investment in training places and TAFE Queensland	8	-
Regional communities' access to training and employment opportunities	9	-
Future of the Queensland College of Wine Tourism	10	-
Mitigating the risks posed to Queensland exporters and producers by proposed US tariffs	12	-
Future trade and investment opportunities in Queensland's clean energy sector	13	-
Whole-of-government savings achieved by the Minister	14	-
Fee Free TAFE places, including number of places	16	31-33, 35
Skills Assure Supplier contracts	17	-

Matter Description	Pre-Hearing QoN	Transcript Page No
TAFE facilities scheduled for works under the line item "Modernisation and reinvigoration projects"	18	-
Employment of TAFE teachers	19	-
Back to Work jobseeker applications, Certificate 3 Guarantee Plus Funding Approvals, Jobseeker Program Jobseeker Applications, and funding allocated	20	33-34
Explosion at Callide C3 station in April 2025	-	4-7, 9-10, 12
Reporting of Queensland Treasury to Minister	-	7
Role of Minister and relationship with Treasurer and other ministers	-	7-8
Governance, performance and culture within GOCs	-	8-9
Involvement of Assistant Minister in discussions for Destination Brisbane Consortium, including potential conflict of interest	-	10-12
Queensland Treasury responsibility for insurance matters	-	12-13
Briefings received by Minister from TIQ and DTET regarding state of trade in Queensland	-	16, 17
Impact of Minister's comments on international relationships	-	17, 20
Application process, recipient determination and outcomes of Go Global grants	-	17-19, 20-21
Support for small and medium sized businesses to export amongst global trade uncertainty	-	19-20
Impact of cessation of renewable energy projects on international investor confidence	-	21-23
Appointments to TAFE Queensland Board and expiry of existing terms	-	26-28
Outcomes of skilling Queenslanders for Work program, including in electorate of Coomera	-	29

Matter Description	Pre-Hearing QoN	Transcript Page No
Manufacturing and skills training in electorate of Maryborough	-	29-30
Maryborough Manufacturing Centre of Excellence	-	30
TAFE training infrastructure in electorate of Caloundra	-	30-31
TAFE Centre of Excellence	-	31
Meeting with Queensland Teachers' Union and TAFE teacher representatives	-	34
Accessibility of apprenticeships, including those in electorate of Coomera	-	34-35
Prioritisation of skills in the Free Apprenticeships for Under 25s program	-	35

4.3. Trade and Investment Queensland

As part of the machinery-of-government changes effective 1 November 2024, administrative responsibility for Trade and Investment Queensland (TIQ) transferred to DTET.⁷⁴

TIQ is the Queensland Government's dedicated global business agency, represented internationally by Trade and Investment Commissioners.⁷⁵ TIQ's objective is to facilitate trade opportunities for Queensland companies, encourage investment in Queensland, and use international government missions to promote Queensland's business credentials.⁷⁶

4.3.1. Budget overview

In 2025-26, the total proposed income for DTET is \$82.9 million, reflecting an \$8.8 million increase compared to the 2024-25 estimated actual. According to the SDS, this growth is primarily driven by a \$5 million funding boost to support expanded initiatives under the Queensland Trade and Investment Strategy 2022-2032 (Strategy), along with a \$3 million funding deferral for multi-year Strategy projects. The 2024-25 estimated actual deficit reflects less than anticipated Migration Queensland revenue due to Australian Government quota changes as well as increased operating costs globally.⁷⁷

TIQ's total expenses for 2025-26 represent the planned programs and activities for implementing the Strategy with priorities to promote Queensland, boost exports, grow

⁷⁴ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, Treasury, p 1.

⁷⁵ Trade and Investment Queensland webpage, *About Trade and Investment Queensland*, accessed at <https://www.tiq.qld.gov.au/about>.

⁷⁶ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DTET, p 16.

⁷⁷ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DTET, p 18.

investment and jobs, and championing global success in collaboration with all levels of Queensland government and businesses.⁷⁸

A budget highlight for TIQ is \$18 million over 4 years to support expanded initiatives, including targeted market strategies and business export support programs.⁷⁹

4.3.2. Matters raised during the Estimates Process

Matters raised during the committee's examination of TIQ are below:

Matter Description	Pre-Hearing QoN	Transcript Page No
Outcomes contained in 2023-24 TIQ annual report	-	14
Briefings provided to Minister regarding TIQ strategies and other matters	-	14-15, 15-16, 23
Changes to strategies since 1 November 2024	-	15
Go Global program	-	20
Support for ministerial trade and investment missions	-	23
Support for small and medium enterprises on global stage, including in electorate of Maryborough	-	24

4.4. TAFE Queensland

TAFE Queensland's purpose is to deliver contemporary, globally relevant skills, needed now and into the future, along with the opportunity for everyone, everywhere to transform their lives.⁸⁰ Its objective is to deliver education and training that enables students to increase their skills and knowledge to support employment or further study outcomes.⁸¹

4.4.1. Budget overview

TAFE Queensland's total budgeted income for 2025-26 is \$912.4 million, representing an increase of \$13 million compared to the 2024-25 estimated actual.⁸²

Approximately 70 per cent of this income is derived from grants and other contributions. This includes government subsidies for training delivered to eligible students, Free TAFE funding, Public Provider funding from the DTET, and other minor grants and contributions.⁸³

User charges and fees account for 29 per cent of total income. These primarily consist of fees paid by domestic and international students, as well as income from Australian

⁷⁸ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DTET, p 18.

⁷⁹ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DTET, p 15.

⁸⁰ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DTET, p 22.

⁸¹ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DTET, p 23.

⁸² Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DTET, p 25.

⁸³ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DTET, p 25.

Government-funded training programs. The increase in this category is mainly due to higher domestic student fees, driven by price adjustments in line with funding agreements, which has resulted in a higher level of fees being met by students.⁸⁴

Total budgeted expenses for 2025-26 is \$905.8 million. Of this, 68 per cent relates to employee expenses. The increase in employee expenses compared to the 2024-25 estimated actual is primarily due to wage increases under enterprise bargaining agreements.⁸⁵

According to the SDS, all other expenses, totalling \$287.1 million in 2025-26, are broadly consistent with 2024-25 estimated actual levels.⁸⁶

4.4.2. Capital program

TAFE Queensland has a \$26.8 million capital program in 2025-26, including:

- \$13.1 million for the acquisition, replacement and modernisation of training and operational equipment
- \$7.1 million for the development of training product and materials to support delivery
- \$6.1 million for acquisitions under the Regional Economic Future Fund for Renewal Economic Training Hubs, Mobile Renewable Training Facilities and Critical Minerals Training Hub.⁸⁷

⁸⁴ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DTET, p 25.

⁸⁵ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DTET, p 25.

⁸⁶ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DTET, p 25.

⁸⁷ Queensland Budget 2025-26, SDS, DTET, p 24.

Statement of Reservation



Statement of Reservation

Governance, Energy
and Finance Committee

Appropriation Bill 2025





Acknowledgment of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the lands, seas, skies and waterways from across Queensland.

We pay our respect to the Elders, past, present and emerging, for they hold the memories, traditions, the culture and hopes of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

This artwork by The Hon LEEANNE ENOCH MP is called "The Power of Many" from her "Connections" series. It represents the paths we take to reach our goals and the many important and often powerful connections we make with each other along the way.

Queensland Labor Opposition

The Queensland Labor Opposition thanks public sector employees right across Queensland for the work that they do each and every day on behalf of all Queenslanders. Without over 270,000 full-time equivalent public sector roles in Queensland undertaking that work, Queenslanders would not have access to the services and support that they need and deserve.

In particular, the Queensland Labor Opposition thanks all public servants involved in the preparation of Budget Estimates. Preparing for a Budget Estimates process is a monumental task that can involve hundreds of staff to not only attend the public hearings but also prepare briefing materials and gather information.

PREMIER AND CABINET

The Premier was asked if he accepts responsibility for the decisions of the budget and the outcomes of the budget, a line in the sand moment. It was a simple yes or no question, however, it resulted in Premier David Crisafulli waffling for six minutes about a myriad of different things, just to what the Queensland Labor Opposition can assume to run down the clock.

In the end the answer to the following question was provided was:

Mr MILES: *That is great. My purpose is to acknowledge how many people are involved and to thank them for their efforts, so thank you for getting that for me. My second question is to the Premier. Premier, in respect of the budget, do you acknowledge that this is a line in the sand, and will you accept responsibility for the decisions that you have made and the outcomes from now on?*

Mr CRISAFULLI: *The answer to the Leader of the Opposition's question is: absolutely, accountability matters to me across the board.¹*

It is clear that the outcomes of the Crisafulli LNP Budget regardless of if they are positive or negative for Queenslanders lay at the feet of LNP Premier David Crisafulli and his team.

The time for blame games or criticising the past is over, the decisions made by the government in the budget are the LNPs and the Queensland Labor Opposition will continue to hold the government to account on behalf of all Queenslanders each and every day.

BUDGET ESTIMATES REFORM

The then LNP Leader of the Opposition, now LNP Premier David Crisafulli promised reform to the estimates process. While there was some change this year, it is a far cry from what the Premier promised or articulated in Opposition. In particular when the additional transparency measures which were put in place when Labor was in government under then Premier Steven Miles were removed, such as prescribing a 70/30 split, removing opening statements for each section and empowering crossbench members of parliament more.

In respect of the timing breakdown the Leader of the Opposition asked:

Mr MILES: *I have to say, it is good to hear there will not be nonsense and filibustering. Premier, you mentioned math with regard to time. Your answer to a question on notice stated that there would be 70 hours and 15 minutes of questioning allocated, but you have removed the 70/30 split to non-government members. This year's estimates will allow for 35 hours and seven minutes of questioning from non-government members. Last year, non-government members had 46 hours and 22 minutes, a full 11 hours more. Do you concede that non-government members will have less time than last year to ask questions?²*

¹ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/events/han/2025/2025_07_29_EstimatesGEC.pdf page 4

² https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/events/han/2025/2025_07_29_EstimatesGEC.pdf page 5

Queensland Labor Opposition

The Premier unfortunately did not provide an answer to this direct question, only going on to reflect on the estimates in previous years and how he did not want to see certain things this year.

The Premier instead said:

***Mr Crisafulli:** ... I do believe that everyone should have an opportunity to probe and test and ask questions, and I point the Leader of the Opposition to the reforms that we have undertaken and why they are important. I am very happy to answer many budgetary questions that relate to the importance of that. The parliament is an important opportunity for the member to do that.....³*

While it was good to hear that the Premier said that everyone should have an opportunity to probe and test and ask questions and that the parliament is an important opportunity for the member to do that, in reality the actions of LNP Government Members during the hearings attempted to limit and stifle questioning of the executive by non-government Members on multiple fronts.

The Premier said:

***Mr CRISAFULLI:** ... The answer to the Leader of the Opposition's question is: some might see it as a strange concept, but we are doing what we said we were going to do. This process will be repaired by not having the nonsensical scenes that we saw year after year....⁴*

Unfortunately for the Premier, the actions of LNP Government Members, including Ministers during this years estimates does not live up to the expectations of what the Premier and then Leader of the Opposition David Crisafulli said would occur for estimates.

In short, it is the belief of the Queensland Labor Opposition that Premier David Crisafulli has broken his promise in relation to the estimates process in Queensland. Further information and analysis on budget estimates can be found in the statement of reservation for the *Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2025*.

SENIOR PUBLIC SERVANT SACKINGS

It was revealed during the hearings by Director-General, Mr Damien Walker that there were changes to two SES positions within the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, which are currently filled by acting appointments. The Leader of the Opposition asked the Director-General:

***Mr MILES:** I would like to return to the two public servants you acknowledged sacking in the earlier set of questions. I understand that after you sacked them they were marched from the building without the opportunity to say goodbye or to thank their staff. Is there a reason they were treated that way and were you instructed to sack them?⁵*

The Director-General responded:

***Mr Walker:** In terms of the question was I instructed, absolutely not. In terms of the process, there is never a good way to farewell staff. We followed a traditional arrangement where staff were provided a level of support. By 'escorted', someone from HR took them to their cars, but that was the extent of the way in which we farewelled them on that day. It was a decision of mine.*

***Mr MILES:** It sounds like 'farewell' might be generous.*

³ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/events/han/2025/2025_07_29_EstimatesGEC.pdf page 5

⁴ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/events/han/2025/2025_07_29_EstimatesGEC.pdf page 5

⁵ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/events/han/2025/2025_07_29_EstimatesGEC.pdf page 9

Queensland Labor Opposition

The Director-General in his evidence indicated that the departure of the two SES officers was in respect of “broader change in the structure of DPC that I undertook upon my arrival, we moved a number of things around within the department to ensure the department was well positioned to support the government of the day”.⁶

While each government administration is able to structure the public service to support them, it is unclear how the Director-General’s evidence marries up with advice provided to the Queensland Labor Opposition that at least one of the positions still exists and only potentially got larger in responsibilities.

In short, it is understood that the individual sitting beside the Director-General during the estimates hearings, occupying the position of Acting Associate Director-General, is acting in one of the SES positions, which has not changed dramatically which the Director-General sacked. So it begs the question, why the individual SES officers were sacked by the Director-General when the positions are still there and the duties are the same, if not increased in some way.

However, the Queensland Labor Opposition does take issue with the term “farewell” used by the Director-General when answering questions about the sackings of two highly respected SES officers in the public service, who always provided frank and fearless advice to government.

It is understood that the word “farewell” can be described as “used to express good wishes on parting”, or as a verb “mark the departure or retirement of someone with a ceremony or party”. This clearly did not occur in this situation. The Director-General sacked two long standing and respected SES public servants and they were not allowed to say goodbye to their staff, they were escorted to their vehicles and sent on their way.

This is hardly the hallmarks of respecting the public service.

NO LINKS TO POLITICS

Premier David Crisafulli before the election indicated that Directors-General would be independent without political links, during the estimates hearing the Premier was asked:

Mr MILES: Thanks, Premier. I noted your comments there regarding political links of directors-general. Do you stand by your commitment that directors-general in your LNP government have absolutely zero links and absolutely zero memberships of political parties?⁷

The Premier waffled a bit and did not give a direct answer but did state:

Mr Crisafulli: ... I just make the observation that we are creating a world-class Public Service led by someone who is beyond political reproach.⁸

Which the Leader of the Opposition summarised in the first part of their next question by stating: “So zero links”, this summary was not challenged.

It is therefore interesting and alarming to hear evidence in later estimates hearings that some Directors-General have political links to the conservative side of politics. While these matters will be explored more in other reports, it should be noted that the permanent appointments of Directors-General are a matter for the Premier. As such, it is prudent to outline the evidence that was uncovered during subsequent estimates hearings regarding Directors-General, which include:

- Director-General of the Department of Justice, Sarah Cruickshank, who worked for Liberal Members of Parliament and also donated money to the Liberal Party:

⁶ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/events/han/2025/2025_07_29_EstimatesGEC.pdf page 7

⁷ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/events/han/2025/2025_07_29_EstimatesGEC.pdf page 10

⁸ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/events/han/2025/2025_07_29_EstimatesGEC.pdf page 10

Queensland Labor Opposition

Ms Cruickshank: Not quite correct, no. I did not work for the honourable Joe Hockey. I did, straight out of university, work in the electorate office of Dr Brendan Nelson back in 1996 and I worked for Helen Coonan for a year in the Senate when she was a backbencher in 1998.⁹

Ms SCANLON: Director-General, I refer to the role of the Electoral Commission of Queensland, in particular page 60 of the SDS, which outlines their objective to promote and enforcement compliance with the electoral laws, which I note includes the political donation scheme. Speaker, I table a political donation form from a donor called Sarah-Jane Cruickshank declaring a \$1,000 donation to the Liberal candidate for Penrith, Stuart Ayres. Can you confirm that you are the Sarah-Jane Cruickshank who donated those funds?

Ms Cruickshank: I do need to have a look. Yes, I can confirm that was a donation that I gave. It was actually at the time that I worked in a public affairs company which was based in Sydney and worked in Sydney and Canberra.

- Director-General of the Department of Customer Services, Open Data and Small and Family Business, who worked as a Chief of Staff for a Howard Government Minister:

Mr de BRENNI: Director-General, is it true that you were formerly a chief of staff in the Howard government?

Mr Lamont: Twenty years ago I was a ministerial staffer on secondment from the Department of Defence. In the 20 years since I have been privileged to serve governments of both colours at a state and federal level.¹⁰

It is clear to the Queensland Labor Opposition that Premier David Crisafulli has broken his promise in relation to no political linked Directors-General in the Queensland public service.

VICTIMS OF CRIME

The morning of estimates Premier David Crisafulli released a new metric of victim numbers that he indicated he would be held account do. This metric did not include “other theft” which does actually include individuals who might be victims of crime. While the Premier has previously said that he likes the ABS victim-of-crime data because it is consistent, the Premier has deviated from this in respect of the metrics that he will be held to account on.

Mr MILES: Mr Speaker, I table the transcript from a radio interview the Premier gave with 4BC where he referred to the ABS victim-of-crime data. Premier, you said at the time— And the reason ... I like these figures is because they are consistent right across the country and the state ... Premier, if you liked the ABS figures so much then, why will you not release the same figures so Queenslanders can truly compare and track the number of victims against your promise?

Mr CRISAFULLI: The answer is: they will be released, and they should be ...¹¹

⁹ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/events/han/2025/2025_08_05_EstimatesJIC.pdf page 4

¹⁰ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/events/han/2025/2025_08_08EstimatesLGC.pdf page 7

¹¹ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/events/han/2025/2025_07_29_EstimatesGEC.pdf page 11

So, it begs the question, if the data is there as reported to the ABS, which includes “other theft” then why not keep that in the metrics and continue to report on it, but more frequently. This was put to the Premier, with the following response:

Mr MILES: *Could you not have released more regular data using the same methodology?*

Mr CRISAFULLI: *We are.*

Mr MILES: *Why change the methodology?*

Mr CRISAFULLI: *This is victims. These relate to victim numbers.*

Mr MILES: *It is not all the victims, though.*¹²

FLU VACCINATION

During the estimates process, the Premier was appeared evasive about his vaccination status – despite being a leader for Queenslanders.

The Premier failed to outline if he had received his flu vaccination, or whether he believed Queenslanders should get vaccinated. That is despite hundreds of Queenslanders currently hospitalised with influenza.

The Director-General also could not tell the estimates hearing how much the State Government had budgeted to promote the free flu vaccination campaign. Instead, the Director-General talked to the cost of the Hospital Rescue Plan Campaign, stating:

Mr MILES: *Can you outline what government advertising campaigns there have been to promote flu vaccination and how that compares to the funding provided to the advertising for the Hospital Rescue Plan campaign?*

Mr Walker: *I do not have that material to hand*¹³

Before later revealing:

Mr Walker: *The campaign cost \$1.67 million excluding GST. In terms of your question around flu vaccine, I do not have that material at hand ...*¹⁴

The Queensland Labor Opposition later discovered that the flu vaccine campaign was about three times less than the \$1.67 million spent advertising the Crisafulli Government’s health capital “Hospital Rescue Plan”.

At a time when Queensland Hospitals are feeling the immense pressure of the current flu season, the State’s leaders could not bring himself to call on Queenslanders to get vaccinated. Nor was there any explanation around why a hyperpolitical document, like the Hospital Rescue Plan, should be advertised far more than genuine health advice.

The Queensland Labor Opposition holds serious concerns that the budget priorities of the Crisafulli LNP Government put them out of step with real Queenslanders – Queenslanders who are currently sniffing through the winter flu season with very little reassurance from their government on how this ongoing situation will be properly managed.

¹² https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/events/han/2025/2025_07_29_EstimatesGEC.pdf page 12

¹³ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/events/han/2025/2025_07_29_EstimatesGEC.pdf page 25

¹⁴ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/events/han/2025/2025_07_29_EstimatesGEC.pdf page 26

Queensland Labor Opposition

STATE COLOUR

The Queensland Labor Opposition recently revealed that the Crisafulli LNP Government is blue washing the state, by changing the Queensland maroon branding to blue.

And why?

Well, the Queensland Labor Opposition can only deduce that it is because blue aligns with the conservative LNP colours.

Through questioning of the Director-General it was clear that the rebranding was being led out of existing marketing and comms people who sit within the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. As such, public servants within the central agency have been tasked with blue washing the public service at the request of their political LNP Government masters.

To be clear, Queensland is maroon.

During State of Origin, we are maroon.

To blue wash the state like what the Crisafulli LNP Government is doing is absurd.

SENIOR PUBLIC SERVANT RECRUITMENT

Questions were asked in relation to the appointment of an individual to a senior media and communications role within the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. The role was previously titled an “Assistant Director-General” but was subsequently upgraded to “Deputy Director-General”.

While the Director-General outlined that there was no change to the SES level itself, questions still remain regarding if the successful individual will be remunerated at a higher level than the previous individual. It should also be noted that the successful individual is coming from outside of the public service and is understood to have no previous senior public service experience.

When the Premier was asked if they had contact or discussions with the successful individual about the role, the Premier did not give a straight answer:

Mr MILES: I think it is appropriate to ask if you played any role.

Mr CRISAFULLI: You know how the process was undertaken. You have two independent public servants here and you can ask them.

Mr MILES: So are you saying no?

Mr CRISAFULLI: If I may, there are two independent public servants here who will be able to tell you how the process unfolded, and that is the fit and proper way.¹⁵

GENDER PAY GAP

The previous Labor Government created the position of Special Commissioner, Equity and Diversity which sat in the Public Sector Commission to support a range of tasks across government.

The Member for Sandgate asked the Public Sector Commissioner:

Ms ASIF: My question is to the Public Sector Commissioner. Commissioner, I refer to page 21 of the Service Delivery Statements with reference to the Special Commissioner, Equity and Diversity. This role is responsible for supporting measures such as reducing the gender pay gap, increasing women

¹⁵ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/events/han/2025/2025_07_29_EstimatesGEC.pdf page 16

Queensland Labor Opposition

in leadership and increasing equity and diversity in recruitment selections. Is there currently a role titled Special Commissioner, Equity and Diversity? If not, who made the decision to axe this role?

The Public Sector Commissioner acknowledged the work of the former Special Commissioner, Equity and Diversity and outlined the achievements which the role supported across the public service, include pay gender equity, equality, reproductive leave, equity and diversity audits.

Further questions were asked of the Premier and it was clear to the Queensland Labor Opposition that the role of Special Commissioner, Equity and Diversity, despite the positive change that the role was able to support across the public service was discontinued and not renewed by the Crisafulli LNP Government.

While the Premier stated that the role was provided a three month extension by the former Government, that was due to the fact that the position fell due during caretaker, and pursuant to the strict guidelines longer term contracts are not able to be entered into.

As such, the decision to not continue the role of Special Commissioner, Equity and Diversity squarely lands at the feet of LNP Premier David Crisafulli.

PUBLIC SECTOR REPORTS

The then Leader of the Opposition, now Premier promised to report public service information, such as the State of the Sector report on a biannual basis. To date, this has not occurred.

The Public Sector Commissioner stated:

***Mr Mackie:** Again, it will depend upon what timeframes I recommend to government around the best reporting periods that compare apples with apples. We have just done this large one. Again, it depends on when I land it. If we went back to March and September—obviously the next one is March.¹⁶*

The Queensland Labor Opposition will continue to monitor this and ensure that this promise by the LNP is realised.

MARKET RESEARCH

Prior to the 2025 budget estimates process, it was reported that the Crisafulli LNP Government had commissioned more than \$650,000 in taxpayer-funded market research and polling.

This was something the Premier criticised the former government of doing when he was Opposition Leader.

The Australian in June reported:

The Australian [revealed ahead of the 2020 state election](#) that Labor premier Ms Palaszczuk's department had spent \$528,000 for Ipsos to do Covid-19 polling and market research.

She [refused to release the data](#). But in February last year, her successor, Labor premier Steven Miles, [eventually published](#) thousands of pages of research dating back to 2020.

As opposition leader, Mr Crisafulli was highly critical of Ms Palaszczuk's decision to order the research and not release it.

¹⁶ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/events/han/2025/2025_07_29_EstimatesGEC.pdf page 19

Queensland Labor Opposition

In parliament in November 2023, he accused the premier and her government of having the “wrong priorities” and focusing on spending “hundreds of thousands of dollars to try to secure its political future”.

“The premier always says that the only poll that matters is the one on election day. Why, then, would she spend hundreds of thousands of Queensland taxpayers’ dollars to save her job today?” Mr Crisafulli said.

“Why do we have a government so focused on its own survival rather than on what Queenslanders are experiencing in their lives?”

“Queenslanders are living with a health crisis, a youth crime crisis, a cost-of-living crisis and a housing crisis. This government’s focus is on how it can get secret polling to try to save itself from facing its date with destiny.”¹⁷

In the pre-hearing estimates Question on Notice about the secret polling, the Premier did not commit to releasing the polling and simply said the outcome of the secret research was that “the government was better informed.” Well, you know who isn’t better informed? Queenslanders.

Given the Premier’s strong comments from Opposition, the Leader of the Opposition questioned why this polling continued to be kept from public view. During the estimates hearing, the Leader of the Opposition put the question to the Premier, asking if he would finally release the research as he did.

Instead of openness and transparency, there was no commitment, no conviction and no answers.

The questioning further showed that when the Crisafulli LNP Government says something, it means nothing. The Premier is now doing the exact thing he rallied against when in Opposition.

The Queensland Labor Opposition holds grave concerns that this has become the hallmark of the Crisafulli LNP Government – undermining the integrity and trust in our those who should be leading by example.

MINISTERIAL STAFF SECRECY

Premier David Crisafulli and the LNP are not letting the sunshine in on their ministerial offices. On at least two occasions now the Premier has refused to provide a breakdown of positions and numbers of them in ministerial offices.

All that is being sought is the number of A05 or the number of A08s for example. The names of the individuals paid by the taxpayer are not being sought. However, on each occasion the Premier has claimed that to provide the information will breach privacy, despite similar information being provided in the context of the public sector in different varieties and formats previously.

What does the Premier and the LNP Government have to hide.

However, the estimates hearings did reveal that since the Crisafulli LNP Government have come to office there have been “seven terminations in amongst the 29 resignations and terminations totally a cost of \$48,187 in notice and termination benefits in line with the contracts”.¹⁸

VETERANS

The Queensland Labor Opposition supports our Queensland veterans and recognises their contributions to our state and our country.

¹⁷ <https://www.theaustralian.com.au/nation/queensland-premier-blocks-release-of-secret-polling/news-story/c830a98a8855ba608c37580e54a59d8d>

¹⁸ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/events/han/2025/2025_07_29_EstimatesGEC.pdf page 37

Queensland Labor Opposition

Despite repeated commitments to put veterans first, the Crisafulli LNP Government's handling of key issues affecting veteran health and wellbeing exposes major gaps in leadership and delivery.

Two recent examples, the closure of a critical mental health facility and the failure to act on the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide recommendations, highlights the inaction, poor coordination, and lack of accountability the Crisafulli LNP Government has demonstrated when it comes to veterans.

CLOSURE OF TOOWONG PRIVATE HOSPITAL

The Crisafulli LNP Government's response to the closure of Toowong Private Hospital, a 58 bed specialist mental health facility with a long history of serving veterans, has been inadequate.

Despite Premier David Crisafulli conceding, *"You are right: there are shortfalls in the private sector which are deeply troubling. That is something we need to work on with the federal government and private providers,"*¹⁹ there has been no funding to save the facility from closure, no replacement facility or comprehensive plan announced to ensure continuity of care for veterans.

When asked, *"How many veterans previously treated at Toowong have been successfully transitioned to other services and how is continuity of care being ensured, particularly for those with complex trauma needs?"*²⁰ the Premier was unable to provide a response and instead referred the question to the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. This lack of clarity leaves veterans without assurance that continuity of care is being maintained, forcing many to navigate overstretched public services and risking the loss of specialist, veteran-specific expertise.

FAILURE TO ACT ON ROYAL COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

The Crisafulli LNP Government has also failed to demonstrate a clear strategy, dedicated funding, or a defined agency responsibility for implementing the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide. The Director-General of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, responsible for the Veterans portfolio, acknowledged that there was no timeline at hand for the recommendations.

While Premier David Crisafulli stated that moving the Office for Veterans into the Department of the Premier and Cabinet was intended to provide a *"coordinating role"*,²¹ there is no evidence of active coordination, despite the fact that the Royal Commission's recommendations span multiple portfolio areas, including health, housing, mental health, employment, and justice.

Without clear ownership, dedicated funding, and whole-of-government coordination, responsibility becomes diluted, progress risks being fragmented, and critical reforms needed to address systemic failures in veteran care remain stalled.

TREASURY

COST-OF-LIVING

Despite Premier David Crisafulli's previous insistence that universal rebates needed to continue, those rebates were discontinued. That means that many Queenslanders are not receiving vital rebates to support them, such as energy bill relief and also car registration relief.

¹⁹ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/events/han/2025/2025_07_29_EstimatesGEC.pdf page 38

²⁰ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/events/han/2025/2025_07_29_EstimatesGEC.pdf page 39

²¹ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/events/han/2025/2025_07_29_EstimatesGEC.pdf page 40

Queensland Labor Opposition

While the LNP budget papers said that “*cost-of-living pressures will remain a concern for Queensland households*”²², the Crisafulli LNP Government were unable to confirm whether or not they even sought advice on continuing those rebates, despite the Australian Energy Regulator and Queensland Competition Authority determinations to increase standing offers by 3.7 per cent or more.

Treasurer David Janetzki was unable to explain to the estimates committee why he chose to increase government fees on Queenslanders by 3.4 per cent, a rate significantly higher than inflation, and the estimates committee received no answers on how much more the Crisafulli LNP Government plans to collect from this decision.

The Treasurer and his department could not or would not tell the estimates committee, and thus Queensland, how much this increased fee indexation would cost the average motorist. These issues are important, they will impact Queenslanders financially during a time when cost of living is the number one issue. It already seems that the Crisafulli LNP Government is out of touch with ordinary Queenslanders, as they discontinue cost of living relief measures for Queenslanders.

CONSULTANTS

The LNP’s election costings could only balance due to the inclusion of a dubious \$7 billion savings measure on consultants. Now that commitment to savings has waned and the Crisafulli LNP Government relies on questionable assumptions and recalculations rather than delivering actual savings to justify their commitments.

There will be no audit of employment, as the Federal Government provides, to track consultants, contractors, labour hire and outsourced service providers.

That is no doubt why the Crisafulli LNP Government had to inflate other aggregates in Mid-Year Fiscal and Economic Review as a means of including their additional election spending without delivering the associated savings.

It will be interesting to watch and monitor the progress of the Queensland Government Consultancy Services, as this LNP Government commitment is already well behind, given was meant to save \$757 million in the first year, but did not.

Failure to achieve the savings promised risks ratings agencies losing faith in Queensland’s ability to deliver its fiscal plans and making further downward revisions to their rating and outlook for Queensland, increasing borrowing costs.

ALLOWANCES

This budget revises down the Crisafulli LNP Government ‘allowances’ from Mid-Year Fiscal and Economic Review by \$16.6 billion, after economists and ratings agencies questioned the inclusion of these allowances. The Government could not articulate the process or reasoning behind adding these allowances in their Mid-Year Fiscal and Economic Review aggregates.

The Under Treasurer justified the ‘estimates’ as there was a ‘limited timeframe available’ even though the Mid-Year Fiscal and Economic Review was delayed by more than a month to be handed down in January.

It is clear to the Queensland Labor Opposition that the \$23 billion in unallocated allowances added in Mid-Year Fiscal and Economic Review was nothing more than a slush fund for the Crisafulli LNP Government to exaggerate debt and provide cover for their own spending.

²² <https://budget.qld.gov.au/files/Budget-2025-26-BP2-Budget-Strategy-Outlook.pdf> page 14

Queensland Labor Opposition

Consequently, after the Mid-Year Fiscal and Economic Review with the unallocated allowances shoehorned in was published, Queensland had its rating outlook downgraded by S&P Global.

This irresponsible exaggeration lacked process and was not disciplined fiscal policy making, so it's unsurprising the Crisafulli LNP Government Members ran down the clock to avoid answering questions about one of the brave Deputy Under Treasurers who allegedly refused to sign off on Mid-Year Fiscal and Economic Review. Well done to that frank and fearless public servant.

WAGES

Meanwhile, the Crisafulli LNP Government failed to outline what allowances had been made for adequate frontline staff wage rises.

If the assumption is that employee wages rates are based on the state wages policy, a policy the Queensland Police Union called 'insulting', then there will be significant expense revisions in the next Mid-Year Fiscal and Economic Review.

Failure to budget for acceptable wage agreements is a budget black hole waiting to happen. Our hardworking and dedicated public servants across Queensland deserve better from this Crisafulli LNP Government.

HOME OWNERSHIP

The Minister for Home Ownership began the examination of the Home Ownership portfolio with an inaccurate claim in his opening statement, where he said, "*in their Homes for Queenslanders document, home ownership got one bullet point.*"

In reality, the Miles Labor Government's Homes for Queenslanders plan contained at least three significant commitments under home ownership:

- Trial increase of the Queensland Housing Finance Loan in regional areas
- Targeted home ownership support for First Nations peoples aspiring to own a home
- Doubling the First Home Owners Grant to \$30,000 until 30 June 2025.

Notably, the Minister now assumes responsibility for only one of these three commitments, despite holding the title of Minister for Home Ownership.

MINISTER AVOIDS RESPONSIBILITY FOR KEY HOME OWNERSHIP PROGRAMS

During the examination of the Home Ownership portfolio, the Minister distanced himself from significant home ownership initiatives, including the Pathways Shared Equity Loan and regional low-deposit home loan scheme, stating that "*the operational and administrative components of that program sit with the housing minister. My administrative responsibilities are clear in my charter letter. That program sits with the housing minister.*"²³

The Queensland Labor Opposition agree with the Minister that his charter letter is clear. There is one dot point in his charter letter under Home Ownership which clearly states: "*ensure Queensland is a place of aspiration and opportunity, where home ownership is a realistic and attainable option for those living in our state.*"²⁴

²³ <https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/com/GEFC-11EE/C20252026-9701/Public%20hearing%20held%20on%2029%20July%202025.pdf> Page 69

²⁴ <https://cabinet.qld.gov.au/ministers-portfolios/assets/charter-letter/david-janetzki.pdf>

Queensland Labor Opposition

Despite this, the Minister appeared to take no responsibility for programs that directly impact whether Queenslanders can realistically own a home.

RENT OUT A ROOM SCHEME — NO TRACKING, NO OUTCOMES

In his opening statement, the Minister promoted the Crisafulli LNP Government's flagship 'rent out a room' policy which lets homeowners keep stamp duty concessions and grants if they sublet in the first year. The Minister has previously boasted, "*Treasury modelling shows this will permanently unlock restrictions on 20,000 Queenslanders a year*"²⁵

But when pressed on results, the Minister admitted: "*At this stage, there has been no tracking of those numbers.*"²⁶ and "*Those numbers are not able to be kept by the Queensland Revenue Office. They are not factored at this stage because of the inability to capture those numbers.*"²⁷

Not a single rented room has been recorded.

BOOST TO BUY HAS LIMITED IMPACT

While promoting the Boost to Buy program, the Minister stated: "*we are determined to make sure that everybody has the opportunity to access our Boost to Buy program. I want everybody to do it.*" However, the program will assist only 1,000 people. This is a mere fraction of Queensland's aspiring homeowners.

ENERGY

CALLIDE C3

The Crisafulli LNP Government were elected on a small target energy strategy which included keeping Labor's emissions targets and maintaining government owned electricity generators.

Now the LNP have walked away from the emissions target for 2035 as they prepare to repeal legislated renewable targets and cover up coal generator explosions.

Even as new evidence was provided, the Treasurer continued to refer to previous statements rather than outline what he knew about the Callide C3 explosion and when.

Despite the Treasurer's assurances to the estimates committee that he briefed the Premier on the incident within two weeks of the incident, the Premier's Office did not provide Right to Information Officers with any documents after two requests for the relevant time period. In the view of the Queensland Labor Opposition this is a failure of integrity by the most senior person in the government, the LNP Premier.

"*That is a matter for the RTI officer and not for me*"²⁸ is not a good enough answer from the Treasurer of a government that promised Queenslanders transparency and accountability.

The Queensland Labor Opposition keenly awaits the release of CS Energy's internal review of the Callide C3 explosion, due in August. The Treasurer has long maintained he and his office was not aware of the full extent of the explosion until it was revealed in The Australian on April 9, a claim the Queensland Labor Opposition believes is simply not credible and flies in the face of all available evidence and probability and has been utter rubbish since day one.

Serious questions remain over the testimony of the Treasurer and the Minister for Finance, as the Treasurer stated "*I confirm that neither shareholding minister received text messages in relation to the incident from*

²⁵ <https://statements.qld.gov.au/statements/101696>

²⁶ <https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/com/GEFC-11EE/C20252026-9701/Public%20hearing%20held%20on%2029%20July%202025.pdf> Page 71

²⁷ <https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/com/GEFC-11EE/C20252026-9701/Public%20hearing%20held%20on%2029%20July%202025.pdf> Page 70

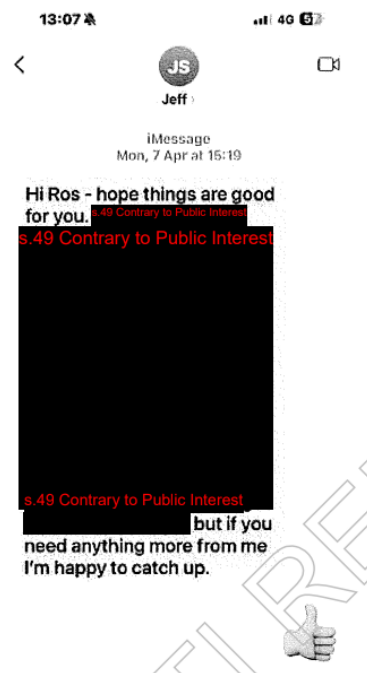
²⁸ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/events/han/2025/2025_07_29_EstimatesGEC.pdf page 76

Queensland Labor Opposition

the CS Energy board prior to 8 April 2025.”²⁹ However, Right to Information documents that were tabled during the Treasurer estimates hearings, and also that of the Minister for Finance, shows that there were communications before that period, in particular from a JS, which is assumed to be Jeff Seeney, a board member.



Finance Minister Ros Bates received the above text message at 4.48pm on the day of the explosion from an unknown person. On Monday, the Minister received a message from JS, which is assumed to be Jeff Seeney as outlined above. If it was, it is inconceivable the Deputy Chair of CS Energy, Mr Seeney, didn't mention the explosion that happened the Friday before at Callide Power Station, and if he didn't, the Minister has failed in her duty to enquire about it since she had just been notified by the unknown person.



There was also a text message chain which revealed that CS Energy, Treasury and Ministerial Offices were in late night discussion on the day of the explosion on April 4. It is understood that Rebecca was a representative for CS Energy at the time, Kellie was a Treasury representative and Chief of Staff to the Minister for Finance, a Mr Michael Negerevich.

²⁹ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/events/han/2025/2025_07_29_EstimatesGEC.pdf page 87

Queensland Labor Opposition



Four days after the explosion the Treasurer and Energy Minister made a keynote speech at the Queensland Energy Club. During this speech he spoke at length about previous explosions at Callide Power Station and promised the Crisafulli LNP Government would be able to keep the State's power stations running indefinitely.

The Treasurer failed to mention the most recent explosion at Callide in his 30-minute speech, during the following Q&A on stage or in his 30-minute press conference that followed the event. The Queensland Labor Opposition believes the Treasurer and Energy Minister did not disclose this explosion to Queenslanders because it undermined the Crisafulli LNP Government's energy plan.

COPPERSTRING

Questions remain over how long Treasurer Janestzki withheld the claimed cost increases of Copperstring from both Queenslanders and the Premier.

Multiple drafts of the Treasurer's energy speech, released to the Queensland Labor Opposition under Right to Information show inclusion of Queensland Investment Corporation's oversight of the project, indicating the Treasurer and the Treasurer's office was both aware of this change in cost and proposed solution well before he revealed it to Queenslanders and the Premier simultaneously.

Despite the Chief Executive Officer of Powerlink making clear that Queensland Investment Corporation's inclusion in the project had been canvassed for an extended period of time, the Treasurer still withheld his claimed cost increase from Queenslanders and the Premier.

Under the Crisafulli LNP Government uncertainty remains around the western half of Copperstring from Hughenden to Mount Isa.

The Queensland Labor Opposition awaits the public release of Queensland Investment Corporation's review of Copperstring.

FINANCE

During the hearing, it was unclear as to what outcomes the Minister for Finance has or will achieve in their portfolio.

Queensland Labor Opposition

The Minister's responses to questioning during the hearing were as unhelpful as they were during her previous short stint as a Minister during the Newman LNP Government.

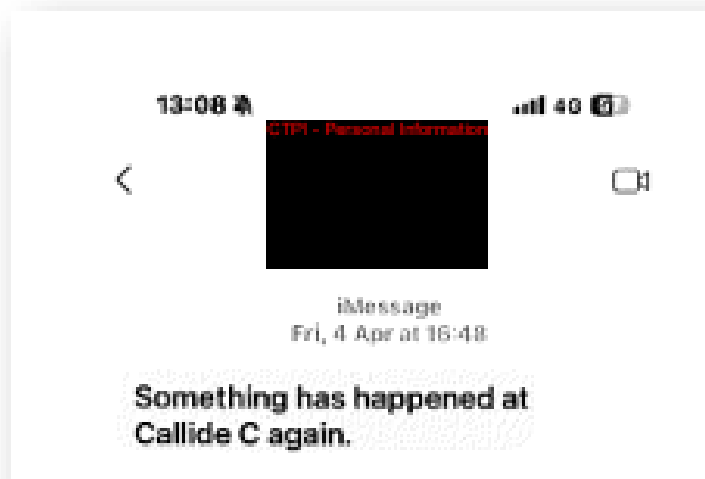
If further proof is required on the competence of the Minister for Finance, Queenslanders only have to look at who the first question from LNP Government Members was directed to during the hearing at their first available opportunity. Their dixer went to the Under Treasurer, not to the Minister for Finance to talk about their record, but to the Under Treasurer. This decision speaks volumes.

CALLIDE C3

The estimates hearings raised far more questions than answers, especially around the Crisafulli LNP Government's Callide Cover Up – which goes deeper and further than any Queenslanders expected. When in opposition, the LNP promised to be open and transparent, however already their actions in government have proven secretive and deceptive.

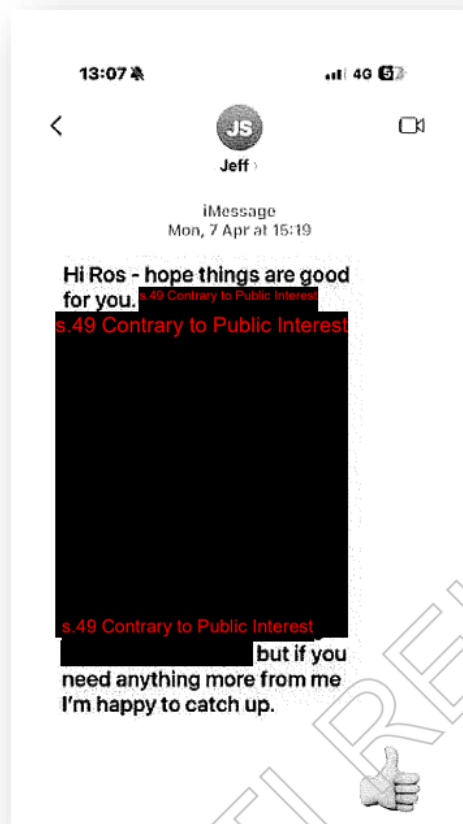
Right to Information documents released to the Queensland Labor Opposition show:

- The Minister for Finance received a text on the Friday of the explosion at Callide *"something has happened at Callide C again"*.



- The Minister for Finance also received a text, that remains redacted to the public from a "Jeff S", which is assumed to be Jeff Seeney the Deputy Chair of CS Energy who was the LNP Deputy Premier during the Minister's previous brief period as a Cabinet Minister. In response, the Minister simply replied with a 'thumbs up' emoji.

Queensland Labor Opposition



The Minister for Finance declined to provide the estimates committee with the rest of that text message. It remains hidden from Queenslanders.

While the Minister for Finance and the Minister for Energy have continued to justify their failure to tell Queenslanders of the explosion with claims the incident was understated, that justification is called into question by texts unveiled between CS Energy and the Chief of Staff to the Minister for Finance, a Mr Michael Negerevich.

The Minister for Finance's Chief of Staff received a text at 6:53pm on the evening of the explosion from CS Energy, yet the Minister for Finance continued to read her prepared statement in the estimates hearing claiming the severity of the incident was understated.

The Minister for Finance is yet to explain to Queenslanders how receiving communications late on a Friday night and texts understood to be from the Deputy Chair of CS Energy aligns with her office not being aware the incident was serious. This claim truly beggars belief.

Queensland Labor Opposition



Further, the Minister for Finance could not tell the estimates committee when she first saw photos of the aftermath of the explosion at Callide C3.

There remains a significant question mark over the Minister for Finance and the Office of the Minister for Finance about what they knew and when, and what action they took (or lack thereof). It is time that the Minister for Finance focuses on their shareholding ministerial responsibilities and tells the people of Queensland what they knew and when.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

It was revealed during the estimates process that the husband of Assistant Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment and Training Amanda Stoker was appointed as secretary of the consortium behind Brisbane Queen's Wharf development earlier this year.

It is understood that the Minister for Finance had been tasked to negotiate a pathway forward for the consortium on behalf of the Crisafulli LNP Government, with her ministerial diary extracts showing meetings with the group.

Under sustained questioning from the Shadow Treasurer, it appeared that the Minister for Finance was unable to tell the estimates committee when she became aware of Assistant Minister Stoker's conflict of interest and how it was being managed.

The only response that was provided in respect of this "huge conflict of interest", as it was reported in the paper, was that *"a conflict management plan is in place, and the assistant minister has had no contact"*.

The Minister for Finance's lacklustre answer leaves much to be desired and leaves Queenslanders wondering how this Crisafulli LNP Government is dealing with conflicts of interests, particularly when the conflicts are extremely close to decision makers of government.

TRADE

The Queensland Labor Opposition considers the 2025 estimates hearing for Trade revealed a troubling pattern of inflammatory and politicised rhetoric by the Minister for Trade and a damning lack of accountability from the Crisafulli LNP Government.

As Trade and Investment Queensland Chief Executive Officer Mr McGowan said, *"we find ourselves in pretty uncertain times...one of the most contested and, I guess, volatile situations in the global trade environment."*³⁰

The measured contributions from the Director-General and the Chief Executive Officer of Trade and Investment Queensland regarding these challenges were in stark contrast with the politically charged statements repeatedly deployed by the Minister for Trade.

During the estimates hearing, it emerged that Minister Ros Bates' rhetoric was based on no formal advice or briefing from public officials.

The last thing Queensland needs in a volatile trade environment is an LNP Minister for Trade repeatedly point scoring with inflammatory and politicised claims which risk potential damage to our valuable international trading relationships.

On the contrary, careful and measured diplomacy is more crucial more than ever.

The Queensland Labor Opposition remain deeply concerned by the inflammatory language and political posturing consistently demonstrated by the Minister for Trade since taking the role in November 2024.

It was even more alarming that when questioned, Minister Bates chose to double down and make further politicised statements without apparent basis in fact.

The Queensland Labor Opposition received no assurances from the Minister's conduct that Queensland's international relationships and the producers and businesses that rely on them, are in safe hands under Minister Bates and the Crisafulli LNP Government.

The questioning by the Queensland Labor Opposition repeatedly exposed the contradictions between the Minister's inflammatory and politicised public statements and the advice provided by her own department and Trade and Investment Queensland.

Far from demonstrating steady leadership, the Minister's conduct risks undermining Queensland's international trade relationships and investor confidence at a time of global economic volatility.

Central to the Queensland Labor Opposition's scrutiny were the Minister's repeated claims of a "decade of neglect" under Labor, assertions that trade documents were "gathering dust," and that Queensland had "flailed" on the international stage.

Conversely, the Director-General and the Trade and Investment Queensland Chief Executive Officer confirmed they had not briefed the Minister along these lines.

When challenged, the Minister failed to provide evidence for her claims, instead doubling down on her political hyperbole.

³⁰ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/events/han/2025/2025_07_30_EstimatesGEC.pdf page 15

Queensland Labor Opposition

The Shadow Minister for Trade asked the following, with the response extracted:

Ms GRACE: *Director-General, did you ever brief the minister that Queensland had flailed on the international trade landscape and not produced any real, tangible outcomes or that there had been a decade of neglect in Queensland trade relations or that Queensland was ever not open for business?*

Mr McKay: No³¹

The Shadow Minister for Trade further asked the following:

Ms GRACE: *Mr McGowan, did you ever brief the minister that Queensland had flailed on the international trade landscape and not produced any real, tangible outcomes or that there had been a decade of neglect in Queensland trade relations or that Queensland was ever not open for business?*

After a point of order from the LNP Leader of the House, the following answer was provided:

Mr McGowan: *We have briefed the minister on, I guess, those headwinds I spoke about earlier. We could always be doing more in terms of our international relations but, **specifically relating to these comments, no.*** [emphasis added]³²

The Shadow Minister then asked the Minister for Trade:

Ms GRACE: *... Both the director-general and the TIQ CEO have outlined that they did not brief you along any of those lines of statements that have been made and that they did provide you with copies of the strategies and the outcomes with regard to what was in place. Minister, on what basis did you make those statements?*³³

The Minister's deflection - claiming trade strategies must not "sit on a shelf gathering dust" - was further undermined when officials confirmed they had not provided a briefing of this nature.³⁴

The Minister's bizarre and flippant remark, apropos of nothing, that she "*cannot rebuild trade relationships by setting up a lemonade stand outside Parliament House*"³⁵ further betrayed the Minister's focus on slogans over substance.

LABOR'S TRADE RECORD

The Minister for Trade's criticism of Labor's trade record also collapsed under scrutiny.

The Go Global Grants Program, touted as a fresh initiative, was revealed to heavily favour repeat recipients, with 50% of grants awarded to businesses that had previously received funding.

This contradicted the Minister's claim that Labor focused only on "announcements and glossy brochures." When confronted, the Minister dismissed the data, refusing to address the inconsistency.

CANCELLATION OF RENEWABLES PROJECTS

The Queensland Labor Opposition highlighted concerns from stakeholders like grazier Tracey Richards, who warned that the cancellation of renewable energy projects like Moonlight Range Wind Farm sent "*ripples far beyond our farm... a loss of momentum in Queensland's energy transition*".³⁶

³¹ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/events/han/2025/2025_07_30_EstimatesGEC.pdf page 15

³² https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/events/han/2025/2025_07_30_EstimatesGEC.pdf page 16

³³ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/events/han/2025/2025_07_30_EstimatesGEC.pdf page 16

³⁴ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/events/han/2025/2025_07_30_EstimatesGEC.pdf page 16

³⁵ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/events/han/2025/2025_07_30_EstimatesGEC.pdf page 17

³⁶ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/events/han/2025/2025_07_30_EstimatesGEC.pdf page 23

Queensland Labor Opposition

Following a flurry of LNP Government Member attempts to avoid answering the question, the Minister's non-answer - claiming the government welcomes "*economically viable energy projects*",³⁷ failed to address the instability created by these evidently ideologically driven decisions.

The Chief Executive Officer of Trade and Investment Queensland, meanwhile, emphasised the need for "*certainty, clarity, and stability*",³⁸ qualities which in the view of the Queensland Labor Opposition are not being demonstrated by the current Minister.

AVOIDANCE OF SCRUTINY AND LACK OF TRANSPARENCY

The estimates hearing for Trade was marred by repeated government attempts to stifle scrutiny.

The Leader of the House routinely raised points of order in an apparent attempt to shield the Minister from questions about the risks posed by her rhetoric and particularly the threats to international investment from cancellation of renewables projects.

When pressed on the impact of her statements, the Minister pivoted to further inflammatory language, claiming that investor confidence was "*almost demolished under Labor*".³⁹

Ultimately, the 2025-2026 Estimates for the Trade portfolio exposed a Minister whose sometimes inflammatory and politicised comments, whose policies rely on Labor's consistent groundwork, and whose public commentary risks, in the view of the Queensland Labor Opposition destabilising Queensland's trade relationships.

The Queensland Labor Opposition demonstrated that the Minister's claims of "neglect" were unsupported by her own officials and that her flagship grants program continued the same model she criticised. The Queensland Labor Opposition continues to hold concerns about the Ministers record of project cancellations and volatile rhetoric which risks raising legitimate concerns among investors.

Queensland trade deserves a Minister who prioritises evidence over ideology, collaboration over conflict, and stability over slogans.

Sadly, in the view of the Queensland Labor Opposition, Minister Bates fails these tests, and Queensland's trade agenda is too evidently in unsteady hands under the Crisafulli LNP Government.

The Queensland Labor Opposition suggests Premier David Crisafulli consider whether the current Minister is the best person to be selling Queensland to the world.

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

TAFE BOARD APPOINTMENTS

The Queensland Labor Opposition holds concerns regarding the direction of TAFE Queensland and the higher education and training sector under the Crisafulli LNP Government and Minister Ros Bates.

During the estimates hearing, the Queensland Labor Opposition outlined some of those concerns, but were unfortunately unable to canvas all of the issues we sought to in the short time allocated, particularly given the challenges in obtaining answers to questions put to the Minister.

As was revealed in the hearing, the Minister made three appointments to the Board of TAFE Queensland. In relation to the Board of TAFE Queensland, the following appointments were in place under the former government:

³⁷ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/events/han/2025/2025_07_30_EstimatesGEC.pdf page 23

³⁸ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/events/han/2025/2025_07_30_EstimatesGEC.pdf page 21

³⁹ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/events/han/2025/2025_07_30_EstimatesGEC.pdf page 23

Queensland Labor Opposition

NAME	POSITION TITLE	APPOINTMENT START DATE	APPOINTMENT END DATE
Jane Seawright	Chair	27 May 2021	26 May 2025
Bronwyn Davies	Member	27 May 2021	26 May 2025
Peter Price	Member	27 May 2021	26 May 2025
Adam Sarota	Member	3 November 2022	2 November 2026
Jody Currie	Member	3 November 2022	2 November 2026
Andrew Dettmer	Member	1 December 2022	30 November 2026
Lee-Anne Perry	Member	9 February 2023	8 February 2027
Nicole Brigg	Member	9 February 2023	8 February 2027

As outlined in the above table, only **three** appointments were due to expire. As can be seen in the Minister's media statement on 23 May 2025⁴⁰, **seven** new appointments were made.

The tenures of Mr Adam Sarota, Mr Andrew Dettmer, and Ms Lee-Anne Perry were terminated approximately 1 year and six months early (Mr Sarota and Mr Dettmer) and 1 year and nine months earlier (Ms Perry) than their appointments were due to conclude.

When asked by the Shadow Minister for Tourism and Shadow Minister for Jobs and Training when the Minister first advised the Director-General when she intended to make changes to the Board, the Director-General said:

***Mr McKay:** I cannot recall exactly when that discussion occurred. There were a number of appointments that were expiring on the board, so we needed to turn our minds to making recommendations to Executive Council to replace those. Exactly when that occurred I cannot recall, but it was to align with the timing of those appointments expiring.⁴¹*

The Director-General's answer that "...but it was to align with the timing of those appointments expiring" is clearly incorrect, given the three former Board Members appointments were due to end in November 2026 and February 2027 respectively.

The Queensland Labor Opposition seeks to understand whether the Minister was provided with notices of resignation by these three members, as required under Section 16 of the *TAFE Queensland Act 2013* or whether they were asked to resign by the Minister.

In addition to this, the Queensland Labor Opposition holds deep concerns regarding the selection process and appointments of the Minister to the new Board, relating in particular to Mr Andrew Knox, and Mr Vivian Grayson and Mr Christopher Lehmann.

A document tabled by the Member for Bancroft shows an email sent by the Assistant Minister for Finance, Trade, Employment, and Training Amanda Stoker to an undisclosed recipient, presumably the Minister, her office, or the department.

The email included the CV of a "former managing partner of Allens", suggesting their appointment to a Board, in particular, "He came to mind for TAFE Queensland..."

⁴⁰ <https://statements.qld.gov.au/statements/102606>

⁴¹ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/events/han/2025/2025_07_30_EstimatesGEC.pdf page 26

Queensland Labor Opposition

The Director-General during the hearing said:

Mr McKay: *In considering, firstly, those skills requirements, Mr Knox—as a former managing partner of a large legal firm, Allens—brought significant governance experience to the board ...*⁴²
[EMPHASIS ADDED]

It would be difficult to argue the person whose CV Assistant Minister Stoker personally supplied was not Mr Knox, given the work history outlined by both the Director-General and the tabled document.

The Minister was unable to clearly outline whether the appointment of Mr Knox was made on the recommendation of Assistant Minister Stoker or not.

On the appointment of Mr Vivian Grayson, the Queensland Labor Opposition has outlined his close affinity to the Liberal National Party in Queensland, and in particular on the Gold Coast. He has been thanked for his party-political campaign work in the maiden speeches of:

- Mr Sidney Cramp, former State Member for Gaven.
- Ms Angie Bell, current Federal Member for Moncrieff.
- Hon Sam O'Connor, current State Member for Bonney.

On the appointment of Mr Christopher Lehmann, the Queensland Labor Opposition has again outlined his close affinity to the Liberal National Party in Queensland, including the fact that Mr Lehmann was an endorsed candidate for the state seat of Ferny Grove at the 2020 State General Election.⁴³

It is unclear how these individuals came to be candidates for appointment to the TAFE Board. Under Section 12(2) of the *TAFE Queensland Act 2013*, just **one** appointment is a nominee of the Minister. Given the Minister's inability to provide fulsome responses to questions about the appointments of these members, the Queensland Labor Opposition calls on the Minister to make a clear and unequivocal statement that neither of these appointments were made under the recommendation of either herself or Assistant Minister Stoker.

FREE TAFE PLACES

The Minister and the Director-General were also unable to properly answer questions in relation to Free TAFE Places. The Shadow Minister for Tourism and Shadow Minister for Jobs and Training asked:

Mr HEALY: *Director-General, could you advise the committee of the total free TAFE places that have been funded by the Queensland government outside of the allocation of the National Skills Agreement for the period of 2025-26 and 2026-27, please?*⁴⁴

In their answer, the Director-General referred to an “...additional investment by the Queensland government of those 29,200 places.”⁴⁵ The 29,200 places the Director-General refers to were funded under the 2024-25 Queensland Budget, delivered by the former Miles Labor Government.

The Crisafulli LNP Government's Budget only delivers on what had already been promised by the former Labor Government and outside of these commitments (including those contained in the National Skills Agreement) provides no additional places for Free TAFE in the forward estimates.

The 3,000 training place available in 2025 for the Diploma of Nursing mentioned by the Director-General were funded by the former government in the 2024-25 Budget, which can be found on Page 50 of the 2024-25 Queensland Budget – Budget Paper 4 – Budget Measures.

⁴² https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/events/han/2025/2025_07_30_EstimatesGEC.pdf page 27

⁴³ <https://results.elections.qld.gov.au/state2020/fernygrove/primary>

⁴⁴ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/events/han/2025/2025_07_30_EstimatesGEC.pdf page 31

⁴⁵ https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/events/han/2025/2025_07_30_EstimatesGEC.pdf page 32

BACK TO WORK

The Crisafulli LNP Government failed to deliver any funding in the 2025-26 Budget for the Back to Work Program, which was aimed at supporting jobseekers back into the workforce. On 1 July, correspondence was sent by TAFE Queensland outlining the program had ceased due to the lack of funding provided by the Crisafulli LNP Government.

In a rushed effort to save face, a decision was made to provide \$20 million directly through the Department of Trade, Employment and Training – and correspondence to that fact was sent by the Minister on 2 July.

While the Queensland Labor Opposition welcomes any continuation of the program, the Crisafulli LNP Government has failed to fully fund Back to Work. The former Labor Government provided \$140 million over four years, meaning \$35 million per year. The current Crisafulli LNP Government have short-changed the program to the tune of \$15 million and cannot outline how many jobseekers it will actually support, particularly given the change in delivery (being from TAFE Queensland to the Department) and less funding.

ESTIMATES PROCESS

The Budget Estimates process is a cornerstone of our democracy in Queensland. For years it has been an opportunity for elected Members of Parliament, in particular non-government Members of Parliament to ask questions of Ministers and senior public servants to hold the elected government to account.

During the 2024 estimates process, the former Labor Government under the direction of then Labor Premier Steven Miles insisted that additional transparency measures were put in place to ensure that non-government Members of Parliament had ample opportunity to hold the elected government to account. These included:

- Providing crossbench Members of Parliament the ability to ask a pre-hearing Question on Notice for any Minister, regardless of if they were a member of the portfolio committee.
- Strictly allocating government and non-government Members of Parliament time in respect of questions. That being that government Members of Parliament questions should not exceed 30% of the total allocated time and the remaining time, 70% for non-government Members of Parliament.
- Of the time allocated for non-government Members of Parliament it should be proportioned between Opposition and crossbench Members of Parliament, based on the proportion of the makeup at the time.
- Only one opening statement per Minister for their entire portfolio of no longer than five minutes, with the Premier allocated no longer than 10 minutes.

These transparency enhancements to the Budget Estimates process, introduced by the former Labor Government, were discarded by Premier David Crisafulli and the LNP Government.

This is despite in 2020 the Courier Mail revealing the then LNP Leader of the Opposition's views on the Estimates process, reporting:

- He [David Crisafulli] said that if the government did not accept "*the need to make changes*", he would introduce them as Premier from the first hearings of the next term in 2024 – if the LNP wins power at the 2024 election.

The changes that were being referred to included:

- increasing the time available to examine the expenditure to ensure adequate questioning can occur;
- an Opposition or cross bench member to chair the committees to help ensure a fairer go;

Queensland Labor Opposition

- limiting the opportunity for ‘Dorothy Dixers’ questions from Government members which exist simply to allow ministers to wind down the clock.

While on paper there was more time overall for the hearings, the way in which Government Members conducted themselves with points of order to chew up time, and the removal of the 70% vs 30% time split, resulted in less time for the Opposition and Crossbench to ask questions to hold the government to account.

These actions were the very things that then LNP Leader of the Opposition David Crisafulli criticised. In the article referenced, he said:

“We’ve also seen ministers answer questions directed to independent public servants and Government members interrupting with tedious points of order to use up Opposition members’ time.”

It is the Queensland Labor Opposition’s view that it is clear that the promises made by the then LNP in Opposition have been broken.

This Budget Estimates there was nothing revolutionary about the way the hearings were conducted - ‘dorothy dixers’ still occurred and frivolous points of order were constantly taken.

Further information and analysis about the 2025 Budget Estimates can be found in the Statement of Reservation attached to the report on the *Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2025*.

CONCLUSION

The 2025 Budget Estimates process was an opportunity for the Crisafulli LNP Government to deliver on its promises – promises to reform, to do better, for a fresh start. Instead, the bar was set so low it was on the floor.

Instead of delivering for Queensland, the Crisafulli LNP Government is delivering for itself. When it comes to accountability, this process laid bare the truth of a government that has failed to live up to its own words. What resounds is that the Crisafulli LNP Government continues to choose secrecy over transparency and political games over genuine accountability.

The Crisafulli LNP Government’s obsession with self-interest over public interest was glaring. The people of modern Queensland expect a government that acts for them, not for themselves.

Queenslanders want a government that embraces the values of openness, fairness and integrity – after all, that’s what they were sold at the 2024 Election.

Instead of being an opportunity for genuine interrogation of the 2025 Budget, the Estimates process was muddled to avoid scrutiny. By placing political convenience above the democratic process that is Budget Estimates, the Crisafulli LNP Government outed itself as out of step with the priorities of Queenslanders.

This is not the “fresh start” that was promised, it is a step back.

Queenslanders deserve better.



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DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMITTEE
SHADOW ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

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BISMA ASIF MP
MEMBER FOR SANDGATE
SHADOW ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR MULTICULTURALISM AND CITIZENSHIP
SHADOW ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

APPENDIX – MEDIA ARTICLES

CS Energy chair's texts exposed after Callide Power Station explosion

Explosive text messages reveal high-level government communications kept from public view after Queensland's Callide Power Station disaster.

Taylah Fellows and Mikaela Mulveney

2 min read

July 30, 2025 - 12:00AM



Treasurer and Energy Minister David Janetzki in budget estimates on Tuesday. Picture: John Gass/NCA NewsWire

The LNP's hand-picked chair of CS Energy was texting minister Ros Bates after an explosion at the maligned Callide Power Station, raising questions about how much information the government kept from Queenslanders.

Former deputy premier Jeff Seeney – now the deputy chairman of CS Energy – was in contact with Ms Bates on April 7 and again on April 9, according to text messages disclosed at budget estimates.

This was immediately after Unit C3 at Callide Power Station exploded on April 4 – an incident Queenslanders were not told about until days later.

At the time, Energy Minister David Janetzki was slammed for not revealing the explosion during a 25-page speech he gave on energy policy, or at a subsequent press conference on April 8.

The text messages between Mr Seeney and Ms Bates, who served together in the previous LNP ministry, state: “Hey Ros – hope things are good for you,” followed by a redacted paragraph and “but if you need anything more from me I’m happy to catch up”.

Queensland Labor Opposition

Further messages including screenshots of an online article detailing the explosion by The Australian were sent two days later with the message: “Hi Ros – this is going to be in the Aus tomorrow.”



Jeff Seeney and Ros Bates in 2010.

It was later revealed the April 7 texts, captured under right to information laws, were related to the Callide Power Station, but not the C3 explosion.

Opposition energy Spokesman Lance McCallum asked whether Mr Janetzki was contacted by any board members of CS Energy prior to April 8.

Mr Janetzki reviewed the texts, before confirming that: “neither shareholding minister received text messages in relation to the incident from the CS Energy board prior to 8 April 2025”.

“My diary is clear when I met with the board of CS energy, and that’s on the public record,” Mr Janetzki said.

“It was clear that holding statements, media releases, it all gravely understated the gravity of the position and what had happened and that was not just the board that had been misled, it was senior management being misled, and obviously ministers.”

CS Energy CEO Darren Busine and Callide Power Station general manager Mick Hill resigned over the incident.

New CEO Brian Gillespie told the estimates hearing Mr Busine’s termination payout would be disclosed in CS Energy’s annual report, due to be published shortly.

“I believe that the CEO actually received a termination benefit, as was his contract and long service leave,” he said.

Ms Bates is due to appear at budget estimates on Wednesday.

Courier Mail - 31 July 2025 - p.15

‘Minister was told’

Callide explosion texts tabled

TAYLAH FELLOWS

CS Energy says it adequately communicated with Finance Minister Ros Bates’ office directly following the Callide C3 explosion, despite the state government’s claims of being left in the dark.

Text messages, tabled during budget estimates, show that at 4.48pm on April 4 – the day of the explosion – a message was sent to someone in Ms Bates’ office saying “something has happened at Callide C again”.

A second exchange at 6.53pm between “Rebecca” and Ms Bates’ chief of staff Michael Negerevich then stated: “Hi Michael, I understand Kellie has been updating you in relation to Callide unit c3. If there is anything additional you need please feel free to give me a call. Bec”.

Mr Negerevich replied at 8.22pm thanking her, saying he would get in touch if anything further was needed.

Queenslanders were not told about the explosion until days later. CS Energy deputy chairman and former deputy premier Jeff Seeney also **contacted Ms Bates on April 7, 9 and 10 to warn of an impending news story.**

Ms Bates has maintained she was told minimal information on the nature of the C3 incident in its immediate aftermath and was unaware of the “magnitude” of the situation.

A CS Energy spokeswoman, asked whether the text messages were an adequate form of communication, said the operator regularly briefed ministers in a “variety of formats, in a way that is appropriate to the particular topic and circumstances”.

Shadow treasurer Shannon Fentiman pressed Ms Bates to reveal the identity of the redacted sender of the first April 4 message and whether she saw it herself. Ms Bates refused to answer, saying the information was “under review”, despite it being public.

She later revealed that Mr Negerevich had briefed her.

Queensland Labor Opposition

 Brisbane Times

Brisbane News Live:

30th July 2025

11.03am

Qld minister under 'conflict management plan' over husband's Queen's Wharf role

By Matt Dennien

The husband of Queensland's Assistant Finance Minister was appointed secretary of the consortium behind Brisbane Queen's Wharf development earlier this year, estimates hearings have revealed.

But Finance Minister Ros Bates has rebuffed questions about any conflict of interest involving her deputy.

Lawyer Adam Stoker – the husband of Assistant Finance Minister Amanda Stoker – was appointed in April as the secretary for two companies: Destination Brisbane Consortium Integrated Resort Holdings Pty Ltd and Destination Brisbane Consortium Integrated Resort Operations Pty Ltd.

The consortium, which comprises the embattled Star Entertainment Group, Hong Kong-based Chow Tai Fook Enterprises and Far East Consortium, is behind the massive Queen's Wharf development fronting the Brisbane River.

Bates was quizzed during today's budget estimates hearings by shadow treasurer Shannon Fentiman about her role in negotiations around the financial position of Queen's Wharf.

Company extract information from the Australian Securities and Investments Commission, tabled by Fentiman, shows Adam Stoker was appointed to the roles on April 28.

Bates repeatedly declined to directly answer whether she knew of the "huge conflict of interest", but said "a conflict management plan is in place, and the assistant minister has had no contact [with the companies involved]."