



2017 – 18 Budget Estimates

Report No. 49, 55th Parliament
Infrastructure, Planning and Natural
Resources Committee

August 2017

Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee

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Acknowledgements

The Committee thanks the Deputy Premier and Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning; the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines; the Minister for Local Government and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, as well as all their departmental officers who contributed to the work of the Committee during Estimates.

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Chair's foreword

This report presents a summary of the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee's examination of the Budget Estimates for the 2017-18 financial year.

On behalf of the Committee, I thank the Deputy Premier and Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning; the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines; and the Minister for Local Government and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and their departmental officers for their cooperation throughout the process. I also thank the chief executive officers from the entities covered in the Committee's portfolio for their cooperation throughout the process.

I would also like to thank the members of the Committee, other participating Members, Hansard staff, the attendants and the secretariat.

I commend this report to the House.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jim Pearce'.

Jim Pearce MP
Chair

August 2017

1. Introduction

1.1 Role of the Committee

The Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee (the Committee) is a portfolio committee of the Queensland Parliament, which commenced on 27 March 2015 under the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001* and the Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Assembly.

The Committee's areas of portfolio responsibility are:

- Transport, Infrastructure and Planning
- State Development, Natural Resources and Mines, and
- Local Government and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships.

The Committee also has oversight responsibility for the Family Responsibilities Commission.

On 13 June 2017, the Appropriation Bill 2017 and the estimates for the Committee's areas of responsibility were referred to the committee for investigation and report.¹

On 19 July 2017, the Committee conducted a public hearing and took evidence about the proposed expenditure from the Deputy Premier and Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning; the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines; and the Minister for Local Government and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, and other witnesses. A copy of the transcript of the Committee's hearing can be accessed at: <http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/work-of-committees/committees/IPNRC/inquiries/current-inquiries/Estimates2017>.

1.2 Aim of this report

The Committee considered the estimates referred to it by using information contained in:

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

This report summarises the estimates referred to the Committee and highlights some of the issues the Committee examined.

Prior to the public hearing, the Committee provided the Deputy Premier and Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning; the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines; and the Minister for Local Government and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships with questions on notice in relation to the estimates. Responses to all the questions were received on 18 July 2017.

Answers to the Committee's pre-hearing questions on notice; documents tabled during the hearing; answers and additional information provided by Ministers after the hearing; and minutes of the Committee's meetings are included in a volume of additional information tabled with this report.

¹ Standing Order 177 provides for the automatic referral of the Annual Appropriation Bills to portfolio committees once the Bills have been read a second time.

1.3 Other Members' participation

The Committee gave leave for other Members to participate in the hearing. The following Members participated in the hearing:

- Mrs Jo-Ann Miller MP, Member for Bundamba
- Ms Dianne Farmer MP, Member for Bulimba
- Mr Linus Power MP, Member for Logan
- Mr Steve Dickson MP, Member for Buderim
- Mrs Deb Frecklington MP, Member for Nanango
- Mr Andrew Powell MP, Member for Glass House
- Mr Ian Walker MP, Member for Mansfield
- Mr Andrew Cripps MP, Member for Hinchinbrook
- Mr Steve Minnikin MP, Member for Chatsworth.

2. Recommendation

Pursuant to Standing Order 187(1), the Committee must state 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 2017 for the Committee's areas of responsibility, be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly without amendment.

3. Deputy Premier and Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning

The Deputy Premier and Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning has responsibility for the portfolio areas of Transport within the Department of Transport and Main Roads, Infrastructure and Planning within the Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and a number of statutory authorities and a commercialised business unit.

3.1 Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning

The Deputy Premier's primary ministerial responsibilities in relation to Infrastructure and Planning include: Building Queensland and economic development; infrastructure prioritisation, planning, development, facilitation and coordination; land use planning; regional statutory planning; urban design and government architect; urban growth; and recovery and reconstruction of Queensland.²

The Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (DILGP) has four service areas:

- Local Government
- Funding Programs and Community Initiatives
- Infrastructure Policy and Planning
- Better Planning for Queensland.³

The following table shows the appropriations for DILGP for 2016-17 and 2017-18.

Appropriations	2016-17 \$'000	2017-18 \$'000
<i>Controlled Items</i>		
departmental services	340,030	514,218
equity adjustment	79,014	66,940
<i>Administered Items</i>	877,379	976,409
Vote	1,296,423	1,557,567

Source: Appropriation Bill 2017, Schedule 2, p 9.

3.1.1 Budget highlights

2017-18 budget highlights within the DILGP (Infrastructure and Planning) include:

- work with the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority to progress the Cross River Rail project as the government's key infrastructure priority
- finalise the South East Queensland Regional Plan
- administer the \$400 million Works for Queensland program

² Queensland Government, Government Responsibilities, [Administrative Arrangements Order \(No. 2\) 2017](#), pp 2-3.

³ Queensland Budget 2017-18, Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning, *Service Delivery Statements*, p 1.

- administer \$225 million over four years to ensure the state is prepared to act on the findings of the intergovernmental Water Taskforce and support sustainable and secure long-term water supply for Townsville
- deliver infrastructure innovation and best-practice infrastructure solutions across the Queensland Government and update the State Infrastructure Plan for 2017-18 through the Infrastructure Portfolio Office
- deliver ongoing industry and community engagement around infrastructure planning and delivery to improve the way infrastructure planning is coordinated across the Queensland Government
- deliver additional funding of \$120 million over four years from 2016-17 to provide water, wastewater and solid waste infrastructure and to develop options for a long term infrastructure program in Indigenous communities
- finalise the draft North Queensland Regional Plan to maximise future opportunities, respond to challenges and set clear planning directions for the next 25 years
- continue to implement the new state planning system and engage with local government to encourage planning innovation and improvement.⁴

Infrastructure Policy and Planning

The 2017-18 Infrastructure and Planning budget highlights for this service area include the following key priorities:

- continue to monitor and report on the delivery of the \$180 million Significant Regional Infrastructure Projects Program to fund significant infrastructure projects in key regional centres that respond to a community need or provide increased economic opportunities
- assess proposals identified through community consultation on the State Infrastructure Plan and those submitted by local governments through the \$30 million fund allocated under the Maturing the Infrastructure Pipeline Program
- mature the Infrastructure Portfolio Office functions across government, update the State Infrastructure Plan for 2017-18, and deliver infrastructure innovation and best-practice across the Queensland Government
- provide support and advice to the Infrastructure Cabinet Committee
- deliver reform initiatives that target strengthened governance and organisational capability and integration and engage with industry and the community to improve coordination of infrastructure planning across the Queensland Government
- continue the work of the Cities Transformation Taskforce in leading the state's negotiations with the Australian and local governments on the Smart Cities Plan and City Deals.⁵

Better Planning for Queensland

The 2017-18 Infrastructure and Planning budget highlights for this service area include the following key priorities:

⁴ Queensland Budget 2017-18, Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning, *Service Delivery Statements*, p 3.

⁵ Queensland Budget 2017-18, Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning, *Service Delivery Statements*, p 7.

- finalise the South East Queensland Regional Plan and implement a program to monitor land supply, unlock undeveloped fragmented land within the urban footprint and provide a strategic approach to dealing with matters of environmental significance
- release and finalise the draft North Queensland Regional Plan
- support local governments to develop innovative ways to ‘lift the bar’ on the outcomes the new planning system delivers to the community through grants under the innovation and improvement fund
- work in partnership with traditional owners to advance key North Stradbroke Island planning initiatives to improve the living standards of the Quandamooka People and identify and facilitate economic development opportunities
- deliver State Assessment and Referral Agency development assessment services, including the provision of timely and reasonable decisions
- implement continual improvement initiatives that ensure the effective and efficient delivery of services, products and advice to our customers
- administer \$10 million of funding over two years from 2017-18 to enable a strategic environmental assessment and provide for land monitoring across South East Queensland.⁶

In 2017-18, the total capital program for DILGP is \$18.1 million and mainly relates to works undertaken for Indigenous councils. This will be discussed in more detail under the Local Government section below.⁷

3.1.2 Agencies

The Deputy Premier has ministerial responsibility for Building Queensland, the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority, the Queensland Reconstruction Authority, South Bank Corporation and Economic Development Queensland.

Building Queensland

Building Queensland is an independent advisory body that provides independent advice to the Queensland Government on the state’s infrastructure priorities. Key functions of Building Queensland include:

- analysing infrastructure proposals to provide value-for-money and long-term benefits to all Queenslanders
- developing rigorous business cases for projects
- identifying and prioritising infrastructure projects in the pipeline of priority projects to meet the state’s needs.⁸

Cross River Rail Delivery Authority

The Cross River Rail Delivery Authority (CRRDA) was established on 14 April 2017. The CRRDA is an independent statutory body with the purpose ‘to plan, carry out or coordinate activities to facilitate economic development, and development for community purposes, in a Cross River Rail priority

⁶ Queensland Budget 2017-18, Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning, *Service Delivery Statements*, p 9.

⁷ Queensland Budget 2017-18, Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning, *Service Delivery Statements*, p 16.

⁸ Queensland Budget 2017-18, Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning, *Service Delivery Statements*, p 33.

development area, and facilitate the efficient delivery of the Cross River Rail project and other related transport projects.⁹ The CRRDA's key priorities in 2017-18 include:

- commencing procurement of major works packages
- commencing early and enabling works
- conducting geotechnical and site investigations
- continuing to identify and deliver economic and social development opportunities
- establish key Priority Development Areas (PDA) to facilitate project planning and development
- consulting with the Australian Government and private sector regarding funding opportunities
- continuing to develop the CRRDA's in-house processes and expertise to effectively support and deliver its functions.¹⁰

Queensland Reconstruction Authority

The Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) was established in 2011 following a number of 'unprecedented natural disasters' in Queensland. QRA's purpose is to manage and coordinate the government's program of infrastructure renewal and recovery within disaster-affected communities, 'with a focus on working with our state and local government partners to deliver best practice expenditure of public reconstruction funds.'¹¹

QRA's key priorities for 2017-18 include:

- delivering Queensland's NDRRA reconstruction works arising from disaster events in 2015, 2016 and 2017
- managing the close-out, acquittal and Commonwealth reimbursement processes related to Queensland's natural disaster events for the relevant financial years
- contributing to the Queensland Government's response to the Commonwealth's national natural disaster funding reforms in consultation with key stakeholders which are proposed to be implemented from 1 July 2018
- implementing the Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience
- leading the ongoing development of Queensland's flood risk management policy and working with local governments to implement recommendations of the Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry and the 2015 Flood Warning Gauge Network Review.¹²

South Bank Corporation

South Bank Corporation has responsibility for, among other things, ownership and management of:

- the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre
- the Parklands car park
- retail and short-term commercial leasing and retail marketing

⁹ Queensland Budget 2017-18, Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning, *Service Delivery Statements*, p 34.

¹⁰ Queensland Budget 2017-18, Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning, *Service Delivery Statements*, p 34.

¹¹ Queensland Budget 2017-18, Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning, *Service Delivery Statements*, p 40.

¹² Queensland Budget 2017-18, Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning, *Service Delivery Statements*, p 30.

- road and footpath ownership and management
- statutory planning for the Corporation area and planning assessment for the Southpoint development.¹³

New initiatives for 2017-18 include:

- completion of the second stage by the Anthony John Group of its Southpoint development in the Corporation area, a residential tower, to complement the commercial and retail development tower completed in the 2016-17 year
- reactivation of the space occupied by outdated and vacant Arbour View cafes
- continuation of the Little Stanley Street retail activation through investment in capital works
- activation of the heritage listed Allgas Building in the centre of the South Bank Parklands with a new retail offer
- continuing to manage and enhance, with Brisbane City Council, the distinct elements of the precinct that make South Bank Brisbane's favourite place to live, work and play
- continuing to consider and identify future opportunities for the management and use of land and other property within the Corporation area
- hosting celebration activities for the South Bank Parklands 25th birthday in collaboration with Brisbane City Council
- working with the Destination Brisbane Consortium and government agencies to ensure the best possible outcome for the landing of the proposed Neville Bonner Bridge in the South Bank Parklands.¹⁴

Economic Development Queensland

Economic Development Queensland (EDQ) is a commercialised business unit of the department. It is a specialist land use planning and property development unit which facilitates economic development and development for community purposes.¹⁵

In 2017-18, EDQ will continue the delivery of existing development projects and identify new projects by:

- working with local governments, communities and the private sector to facilitate activities with strong economic and/or community development outcomes in line with the objectives of the Advancing Our Cities and Regions (AOCR) strategy.
- progressing AOCR projects announced in 2016-17 including Carseldine Urban Village, Rockhampton CBD renewal, Yeppoon heritage railway site, Better Neighbourhoods precincts in Logan, Redcliffe and other areas and the Aldoga renewable energy project
- continuing delivery of the Ageing in Place pilot projects in Barcaldine, Ravenshoe, Ayr and Cloncurry to provide suitable housing options to enable people to stay in their communities
- utilising planning expertise to facilitate major developments including assessing development applications for the \$3 billion Queen's Wharf Brisbane project, preparing the PDA

¹³ Queensland Budget 2017-18, Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning, *Service Delivery Statements*, p 48.

¹⁴ Queensland Budget 2017-18, Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning, *Service Delivery Statements*, p 48.

¹⁵ Queensland Budget 2017-18, Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning, *Service Delivery Statements*, p 55.

development scheme for the \$1.1 billion Herston Quarter development and completing major reviews of the Northshore Hamilton and Bowen Hills PDA development schemes

- further developing Queensland's largest waterfront urban renewal project at Northshore Hamilton, including the completion of over \$20 million of road and park upgrades and facilitating over \$30 million of new public infrastructure at Yeerongpilly Green
- finalising commercial agreements for the first development projects at the Gold Coast Health and Knowledge Precinct to commence after the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games
- continuing EDQ's eight current residential projects including settling approximately 75 lots and earning up to \$13 million in revenue and progressing development in EDQ's 24 industrial estates, settling up to \$26.5 million in land sales to support and enable investment and generate jobs across Queensland
- resolving urban infrastructure issues associated with the development of the Ripley Valley and Greater Flagstone PDAs to coordinate the delivery of critical infrastructure and services, and facilitate development.¹⁶

3.1.3 Issues raised at the public hearing

Issues raised at the public hearing by the Committee and participating Members in relation to Infrastructure and Planning include:

- Cross River Rail project business case: development of business case; inclusion of demand from new Flagstone line in the benefits of the Cross River Rail project; modelling of demand for rail patronage and effect on cost-ratio benefit of Cross River Rail
- data from Department of Transport and Main Roads regarding the estimated passenger load on the Merivale Bridge at 65 per cent of seated capacity and 41 per cent of design capacity in 2015-16; limitations of the Merivale Bridge
- inclusion of nine-car rolling stock in the reference design for the Cross River Rail project and capacity of rail stations in south-east corner to accommodate these trains
- costs associated with upgrading stations to accommodate trains within the \$5.4 billion budget of the Cross River Rail project
- cost-benefit analysis summary for the Beerburrum-Nambour rail upgrade and comparison with the cost-benefit ratio for the Cross River Rail
- delivery schedule of the Cross River Rail project
- benefits of Cross River Rail to residents in South East Queensland and economic opportunities
- vegetation clearing at a development in Bergins Rise
- details regarding how the CRRDA will deliver the project over the coming months
- updated State Infrastructure Plan—\$42 billion infrastructure program; new Queensland Infrastructure Pipeline and effect on industry
- Works for Queensland program: how it supports the creation of jobs and number of jobs supported; monthly reporting from councils on number of jobs created; types of jobs created (full-time equivalent/part-time/casual); how the 2017-19 program will support disaster resilience and preparedness works for Central Queensland

¹⁶ Queensland Budget 2016-17, Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning, *Service Delivery Statements*, p 55.

- prioritisation of other projects over establishing water infrastructure security and food production projects in North Queensland by building large dams with storage capacity to increase agriculture production and employment in rural and regional Queensland
- key regional capital projects and the proportion of capital spending going to the regions and how this compares to previous budgets
- State Assessment Referral Agency: meeting target response time; introduction of new measures to meet Service Delivery Statement targets
- Building Queensland proposal summary for the Capricornia correctional facility: number of beds and consideration of other extension options such as extending the facility at Gatton
- measures available to assist local governments to meet the requirements of the new Planning Act, which commenced 3 July 2017
- vegetation management in the electorate of Bundamba: regulation, planning policies and approvals.¹⁷

3.2 Department of Transport and Main Roads

The Deputy Premier's primary ministerial responsibilities in relation to Transport and Main Roads include: air services, busways, passenger transport (except personalised transport), railways, and transport infrastructure.¹⁸

The Department of Transport and Main Roads (DTMR) has five service areas:

- Transport System Investment Planning and Programming
- Transport Infrastructure Management and Delivery
- Transport Safety and Regulation
- Customer Experience
- Passenger Transport Services.¹⁹

The following table shows the appropriations for DTMR for 2016-17 and 2017-18.

Appropriations	2016-17 \$'000	2017-18 \$'000
<i>Controlled Items</i>		
departmental services	5,218,430	5,063,420
equity adjustment	1,411,276	1,349,391
<i>Administered Items</i>	83,750	18,250
Vote	6,713,456	6,431,061

Source: Appropriation Bill 2017, Schedule 2, p 12.

¹⁷ Estimates public hearing transcript, 19 July 2017.

¹⁸ Queensland Government, Government Responsibilities, '[Administrative Arrangements Order \(No. 2\) 2017](#)', p 3. The Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports has responsibility for Land Transport and Safety; Main Roads; Marine Infrastructure – Project Delivery; Maritime; Personalised Transport; and Ports.

¹⁹ Queensland Budget 2017-18, Department of Transport and Main Roads, *Service Delivery Statements*, p 1.

3.2.1 Budget highlights

The 2017-18 budget highlights in the *Transport System Investment, Planning and Program* service area include:

- continuing the program to develop and deliver Regional Transport Plans to define the strategic direction of regional transport systems
- working with local governments that have formed 17 Regional Roads and Transport Groups across Queensland under the Roads and Transport Alliance, including the management of the Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme
- developing a Strategic Framework and Action Plan for the assessment and management of Transformative Transport Technologies.²⁰

The 2017-18 budget highlights in the *Transport Safety and Regulation* service area include:

- continuing to invest in innovative safety treatments and intelligent transport systems
- continuing to mature data collection and validation processes to drive decision-making and investments
- continuing to advance rail safety outcomes by driving rail research and national partnership activities, leading the Queensland Level Crossing Safety Strategy and managing rail safety projects including innovative level crossing technology trials and chairing the National Level Crossing Safety Committee
- delivering a transport system that is simpler, easier and safer to access and use by the community and industry
- managing and reforming transport legislation, standards and key policies covering access to and ongoing use of the transport network.²¹

The 2017-18 budget highlights in the *Customer Experience* service area include:

- continuing to build organisational capacity
- improving existing online services from a customer perspective, using customer insights to implement improvements to navigation, information and general usability
- delivering the Mobile Compliance Information System which provides compliance officers with the ability to easily record vehicle intercept information and have integrated access to registration and licensing information in the field on mobile devices like tablets
- introducing additional online services
- continuing to focus on the delivery of ‘real-time passenger information’ which in 2016-17 showed wide use and a high level of satisfaction with public transport customers.²²

The 2017-18 budget highlights for the Deputy Premier in the *Passenger Transport Services* service area include:

- implementation of Demand Responsive Transport trials to provide further public transport options to our customers

²⁰ Queensland Budget 2017-18, Department of Transport and Main Roads, *Service Delivery Statements*, p 5.

²¹ Queensland Budget 2017-18, Department of Transport and Main Roads, *Service Delivery Statements*, pp 10, 11.

²² Queensland Budget 2017-18, Department of Transport and Main Roads, *Service Delivery Statements*, p 12.

- delivery of the bus service changes associated with the implementation of Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 2 delivery of Stage 1 of the Murarrie Park and Ride and progression of planning and design of other Park and Ride facilities across a number of locations
- supporting initiatives for upgrades relating to the *Disabilities Discrimination Act 1992* (Cwlth), ferry infrastructure and long distance coach facilities
- Helensvale Bus Station upgrade to support better integration of passenger transport across bus, rail and light rail, with delivery targeted prior to the 2018 Commonwealth Games.²³

Most of the capital program in 2017-18 for the DTMR relates to the Main Roads portfolio area. However, in preparation for the Commonwealth Games, the \$420 million Gold Coast Light Rail (Stage 2) project is scheduled for completion in 2017-18 in time for the commencement of the Games. This will provide a northern extension of light rail from the Gold Coast University Hospital to Helensvale Rail Station.²⁴

3.2.2 Issues raised at the public hearing

Issues raised at the public hearing by the Committee and participating Members in relation to Transport include:

- postponement of the New Generation Rollingstock (NGR) and effect on the transport operations planning for the Commonwealth Games and modelling of existing services on the network
- development of timetable for services relating to the Commonwealth Games
- average number of kilometres a new train required to take as part of dynamic testing to transition into provisional acceptance and revenue service
- testing of NGR units
- date for provisional acceptance for each of the existing 15 units within the NGR project
- details regarding \$12 million line item in budget for other NGR operational readiness projects
- recommendations regarding design of the NGRs and the cab; details of cab committee, including how many times the cab committee has met, and who is represented on the committee and which meetings they attended
- changes made to the driver cabins since the NGRs arrived in Australia and additional cost associated with those changes
- NGR accessibility for people with a disability
- consultation between Minister and Director-General regarding the order of new NGR units
- recruiting programs for drivers at Queensland Rail: criteria and progress on driver and guard training and recruitment
- delivery of training at Queensland Rail, including virtual reality training
- overview of the progress on the implementation of parts of the Strachan inquiry
- school transport: ongoing availability of bus routes and trains in the electorate of Bundamba
- provision of DTMR historical rail patronage data to Building Queensland regarding the development of the Cross River Rail business case

²³ Queensland Budget 2017-18, Department of Transport and Main Roads, *Service Delivery Statements*, p 14.

²⁴ Queensland Budget 2017-18, Department of Transport and Main Roads, *Service Delivery Statements*, p 24.

- construction of the NGR for Queensland Rail: moved from Maryborough to India and delays in delivery
- role of Citytrain Response Unit in delivering parts of the Strachan inquiry; cost of unit; employees—positions, duty statements and organisational chart
- \$23.5 million investment in the duplication of the Gold Coast line between Coomera and Helensvale
- Disability Discrimination Act and the NGR: consultants employed, length of contract, and payments made and balance of payments remaining
- \$18.3 million investment in station upgrades at Alderley, Morayfield, Newmarket, Graceville, Dinmore, Strathpine and Boondall
- improvements in public transport affordability in south-east for Queensland commuters as a result of the Fairer Fares package
- Demand Responsive Transport trials in Logan: effect on access to transport hubs and community services, especially through to Browns Plains Bus Station from areas like Munruben and Park Ridge
- consultation with regional communities on the terms of a new livestock and regional freight service contracts
- empty train travelling from Toowoomba to Quilpie and back between 28 June and 2 July 2017
- transport freight service contract: number of times a contractor has been fined for failing to deliver the service
- status of the bus safety review announced by former minister Hinchliffe on 29 September 2016
- cost of regional flights in unregulated and unsubsidised regional routes—for example, Townsville to Mount Isa
- the percentage return and profit for Queensland Rail on the regulated Townsville to Mount Isa rail line in the 2016-17 and 2017-18 financial years
- safety measures for bus drivers
- Beerburrum to Nambour rail upgrade
- extension of a 12-month trial of the Local Fare Scheme to the Weipa Town Authority, Mornington Island and Doomadgee
- public transport facilities improvements to be delivered through the Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program
- date that the Monday-Friday consistent timetable will be returned to service.²⁵

²⁵ Estimates public hearing transcript, 19 July 2017.

4. Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines

The Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines has responsibility for the Department of State Development and the Department of Natural Resources and Mines.

4.1 Department of State Development

The Department of State Development (DSD) has two service areas:

- Driving Enterprise Development, Economic Development, Economic Growth and Job Creation
- Assessing, Approving, Facilitating and Delivering Projects to Generate Jobs and Economic Growth.²⁶

The following table shows the appropriations for DSD for 2016-17 and 2017-18.

Appropriations	2016-17 \$'000	2017-18 \$'000
<i>Controlled Items</i>		
departmental services	310,513	319,348
equity adjustment	6,355	43,193
<i>Administered Items</i>	2,500	2,500
Vote	319,368	365,041

Source: Appropriation Bill 2017, Schedule 2, p 11.

4.1.1 Budget highlights

The key budget priorities for DSD in 2017-18 include:

- implementing priority industry sector roadmaps and action plans to strengthen new and emerging sectors to further diversify the industrial base of the Queensland economy
- creating a sustainable export-oriented industrial biotechnology and bioproducts sector in Queensland through initiatives including the Biofutures Acceleration Program
- facilitating new private sector investment and projects including supply chain development to increase jobs
- generating real economic, social and environmental benefits for regional Queensland communities through the Building our Regions infrastructure program
- growing, innovating and creating jobs through the management of the \$20 million Made in Queensland program, and joint management of the \$130 million Jobs and Regional Growth Fund in partnership with Queensland Treasury
- delivering the capital program and increasing private capital expenditure in Queensland through a central point of contact and whole-of-government case management to create jobs
- securing long-term tourism, sporting and community benefits through the delivery of major projects

²⁶ Queensland Budget 2017-18, Department of State Development, *Service Delivery Statements*, p 1.

- implementing the AOCR Strategy in partnership with Queensland Treasury and EDQ.²⁷

Driving Enterprise Development, Economic Development, Economic Growth and Job Creation

In 2017-18, as part of this service area, DSD will:

- grow priority, new and emerging sectors with global growth potential as part of the Advance Queensland program by implementing 10-year roadmaps and action plans for advanced manufacturing, aerospace, biofutures, biomedical and life sciences, defence, mining equipment, and technology and services
- attract, facilitate and leverage capital investment, in collaboration with other Queensland Government agencies
- implement the Made in Queensland grants program
- support implementation of the Queensland Government's Strategic Blueprint for Queensland's North West Minerals Province, which is aimed at facilitating a strong and prosperous future for the region
- support the growth of the defence industry presence in Queensland
- implement the Building our Regions program to fund critical infrastructure that generates jobs and supports growth in regional Queensland.²⁸

Assessing, Approving, Facilitating and Delivering Projects to Generate Jobs and Economic Growth

In 2017-18, as part of this service area, DSD will:

- progress the government's contractual obligations to deliver the \$3 billion Queen's Wharf Brisbane project
- implement government decisions as a result of market sounding and community consultation processes and analyse and progress regional IRD opportunities
- commence construction on the North Queensland Stadium in preparation for completion before the 2020 National Rugby League season
- complete the Athlete's Village in preparation for handover to the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Corporation in October 2017
- progress construction of the State Netball Centre at Nathan
- complete the refurbishment of the Aurukun Three Rivers Community Centre
- complete the Carrara Indoor Stadium (non-competition venue)
- progress the Biofutures Acceleration Program, selecting proponents capable of developing commercial-scale biorefinery projects in Queensland
- deliver the Advancing Our Cities and Regions strategy in partnership with EDQ and Queensland Treasury
- lead strong cross-government and cross-sector partnerships to deliver social infrastructure and community hubs, maximising investment and improving the accessibility of services for Queensland communities, particularly in significant growth areas
- develop catalytic community hub proposals, commencing with Yarrabilba

²⁷ Queensland Budget 2017-18, Department of State Development, *Service Delivery Statements*, p 2.

²⁸ Queensland Budget 2017-18, Department of State Development, *Service Delivery Statements*, p 3.

- review and progress appropriate updates to the development schemes for the Bromelton and Bundaberg State Development Areas
- undertake environmental impact assessments on declared coordinated projects and finalise Coordinator-General Evaluation Reports
- progress the implementation of the Strong and Sustainable Resource Communities Framework.²⁹

In 2017-18, the total capital program for the DSD is \$47.6 million and includes \$46 million for the construction of the North Queensland Stadium.³⁰

4.1.2 Issues raised at the public hearing

Issues raised at the public hearing by the Committee and participating members in relation to DSD include:

- Building our Regions: funding; delivery of projects; value of projects; number of jobs created
- number of projects funded from Building our Regions for the Lockyer Valley, Southern Downs, Goondiwindi and Somerset local government areas
- promotion of development of the mining equipment, technology and services sector in Queensland
- Queensland's defence industry
- development of biofutures in Queensland
- meat processing industry in Queensland and effect of increased live-cattle exports and meat processing overseas
- status of business investment in Queensland in 2016 and role of DSD
- status of major projects managed by DSD in 2015-16, 2016-17 and for 2017-18
- Made in Queensland Grants Program: number of applications for funding by businesses in Cairns, Townsville and Wide Bay
- jobs for youth population in Townsville region
- sale of properties in the Mary Valley as a result of the Traveston Dam project
- the Mission Beach safe boating facility project
- DSD's role in assisting Queensland businesses in becoming more internationally competitive
- progress on Big Rocks Weir in Charters Towers.³¹

4.2 Department of Natural Resources and Mines

The Department of Natural Resources and Mines (DNRM) has two service areas:

- Natural Resources Management Services
- Minerals and Energy Resources Services.³²

²⁹ Queensland Budget 2017-18, Department of State Development, *Service Delivery Statements*, pp 6-7.

³⁰ Queensland Budget 2017-18, Department of State Development, *Service Delivery Statements*, p 14.

³¹ Estimates public hearing transcript, 19 July 2017.

³² Queensland Budget 2017-18, Department of Natural Resources and Mines, *Service Delivery Statements*, p 1.

The following table shows the appropriations for DNRM for 2016-17 and 2017-18.

Appropriations	2016-17 \$'000	2017-18 \$'000
<i>Controlled Items</i>		
departmental services	331,831	321,625
equity adjustment	(2,783)	3,135
<i>Administered Items</i>	1,300	1,300
Vote	330,348	326,060

Source: Appropriation Bill 2017, Schedule 2, p 10.

4.2.1 Budget highlights

In 2017-18, DNRM's key priorities are:

- managing land within the department's control and responsibly allocating state land assets
- supporting traditional owners' rights and interests in land and land management
- sustainable native vegetation management
- sustainably managing Queensland's water resources
- ensuring an effective contemporary regulatory framework for tenure management and safety and health in the resources sector
- implementing Monash Review recommendations to improve the Coal Mine Workers' Health Scheme
- support implementation of the Queensland Government's Strategic Blueprint for Queensland's North West Minerals Province
- engaging with stakeholders to reduce risk in mining, explosives, petroleum and gas industries
- supporting the minerals and energy resources industry through delivery of the Strategic Resources Exploration Program and the Queensland Gas Supply and Demand Action Plan
- maintaining public confidence in the land valuation system and ensuring security of property rights and interests
- maintaining spatial and information solutions for Queensland.³³

Natural Resources Management Services

The 2017-18 budget highlights for this service area will include the following key priorities:

- continue water planning activities
- continue water monitoring activities to provide an inventory of Queensland's water resources
- implement Northern Basin Review recommendations to support achievement of Sustainable Diversion Limits in the Murray Darling Basin
- implement a Natural Resources Investment Program to invest in the sustainable management of land, water and vegetation resources

³³ Queensland Budget 2017-18, Department of Natural Resources and Mines, *Service Delivery Statements*, p 2.

- develop a draft Lower Burdekin Groundwater Strategy to address rising groundwater and ensure industry sustainability through technical assessments and stakeholder engagement
- facilitate system and other changes to enable higher volumes of title transactions to be conducted online through electronic conveyancing
- continue to enhance functionality to enable landowners and their agents to transact electronically with the State Valuation Service
- broaden the use of state wide satellite imagery coverage for landscape management, emergency services and compliance outcomes
- implement the review of self-assessable vegetation clearing codes to ensure the codes are practical, effective and provide appropriate environmental protection
- contribute to the government's consolidated delivery strategy to provide on-ground outcomes for the Great Barrier Reef.³⁴

Mineral and Energy Resources Services

The 2017-18 budget highlights for this service area will include the following key priorities:

- establish the Land Access Ombudsman following commencement of the enabling legislation
- deliver the Queensland Gas Supply and Demand Action Plan
- establish the Strategic Resources Exploration Program to support the development of new mineral and energy resources in North West Queensland
- deliver the Annual Exploration Program to release tenders for exploration for petroleum and gas, minerals and coal resources to support the minerals and energy resources industry
- collaborate with industry and community stakeholders on priorities through the Minister's Resources Roundtable and Resources Community Roundtable
- publish a review of respirable coal dust monitoring results
- progress the recommendations from the Monash Review into the respiratory component of the Coal Mine Workers' Health Scheme
- implement improvements to the respiratory component of the Coal Mine Workers' Health Scheme including enhanced chest X-ray and lung function screening systems for coal mine workers
- progress legislative amendments to improve explosives security and safety
- deliver accredited competency training for respirable dust monitoring
- respond to the recommendations of the Parliamentary Select Committee into Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis
- engage with stakeholders to reduce risk in mining, explosives and petroleum and gas industries
- support the discovery of new minerals and energy resources through the Geological Survey of Queensland
- continue the development of an innovative resource tenure framework common to the lifecycle of resource development for all commodity types that will provide industry with more

³⁴ Queensland Budget 2017-18, Department of Natural Resources and Mines, *Service Delivery Statements*, pp 3-4.

flexible settings to underpin investment and the realisation of capital expenditure and the generation of jobs

- support independent assessment and management of cumulative groundwater impacts from resource development in Queensland
- deliver resources investment seminars to key international client sectors.³⁵

The total capital program for DSD in 2017-18 is \$17.7 million, including \$4.5 million to upgrade the department's ICT asset portfolio; \$2.6 million towards systems development for the management of Geoscience data curation and support systems; \$1.8 million for the management of disclaimed mine sites; and \$800,000 towards improvements to the stock route network.³⁶

4.2.2 Issues raised at the public hearing

Issues raised at the public hearing by the Committee and participating Members in relation to DNRM include:

- 2016 Working for Queensland survey of Public Service employees for the DNRM
- status of various waterways in Northern and Central Queensland after Cyclone Debbie, river improvements, restoration works and funding
- current full-time equivalent strength of Geological Survey of Queensland
- average length of time for an exploration permit to be decided for coal, mineral, and petroleum and gas for the past three years
- Queensland Gas Supply and Demand Action Plan: development and date of completion and release
- modelling on impact that the implementation of a domestic gas reservation policy will have on the domestic gas price
- gas production from gas tenures and availability on domestic market
- strategic blueprint for Queensland's North-West Minerals Province
- progress on implementation of recommendations from the Monash review into combatting coal workers' pneumoconiosis
- examples of projects in resource sector creating jobs
- permanent mining memorial in Redbank
- analysis of the ResourcesQ strategy
- status of advisory committee (resources round table) for industry and ResourcesQ initiatives: membership and number of times it has convened
- Integrated Food and Energy Developments project: release of water reserves in the Gilbert catchment and consultation
- vegetation management activities and the establishment of pasture
- Springfield station: environment protection and mining leases

³⁵ Queensland Budget 2017-18, Department of Natural Resources and Mines, *Service Delivery Statements*, pp 6-7.

³⁶ Queensland Budget 2017-18, Department of Natural Resources and Mines, *Service Delivery Statements*, p 13.

- alternative pricing and allocation models to the current tender based process
- self-assessable codes and management of regrowth vegetation
- actions by government to assist in the supply of gas to domestic users
- sustainable management of the Great Artesian Basin
- development of mineral exploration in Queensland
- protection of landholders' properties from erosion at riverbanks following Cyclone Debbie
- planning for all stakeholders for future flooding events on the Brisbane River
- Northern Basin Review by the Murray-Darling Basin Authority: quantum of additional assistance required by Queensland Government and action if assistance not received
- process of water entitlements and ecological assessments
- release of Queensland Government submission to the Northern Basin Review of the Murray-Darling Basin
- Cape York water resource plan: date of release for public consultation; management of ground and water resources within areas covered by special agreement acts on Cape York Peninsula; water entitlements associated with Springvale Station
- access for people living in rural and regional communities to medical equipment and supplies to support lung dysfunctions due to work related injuries such as coal workers' pneumoconiosis and silicosis
- water availability through the water infrastructure projects in the Atherton Tableland region
- status of the mine subsidence at Collingwood Park
- timeline for decision regarding expansion of the New Acland mine
- how the resources tenure framework will support the mining and resource sectors
- progress on phasing out sandmining at North Stradbroke Island and facilitating the transfer of land back to the Quandamooka People.³⁷

³⁷ Estimates public hearing transcript, 19 July 2017.

5. Minister for Local Government and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships

The Minister for Local Government and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships has responsibility for the portfolio areas of Local Government within the Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and for the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships.

5.1 Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning

The four service areas and appropriates for the DILGP for 2016-17 and 2017-18 are noted above under section 3.1.

5.1.1 Budget highlights

2017-18 budget highlights for the portfolio area of Local Government within the DILGP include:

- implement tailored capacity building initiatives to help improve local government sustainability.³⁸

Governance and statutory services highlights include:

- implement the government's response to the independent review into the councillor complaints framework, including providing support and training to local governments
- provide advisory services to local governments on operational and strategic matters and broker cross agency solutions for local governments
- analyse intelligence regarding local governments in Queensland to better tailor capacity building and governance solutions and provide targeted assistance to local governments.³⁹

Local government capacity building highlights include:

- work with local governments to address long-term sustainability challenges
- deliver targeted training for councillors and staff of local governments on good practice in governance, financial management, accountability and ethical and legal behaviour
- deliver training for local government finance professionals on financial reporting
- support the Women in Local Government Strategy through professional development activities
- facilitate resource sharing across councils and state agencies to utilise and develop professional skills.⁴⁰

Funding Programs and Community Initiatives

The 2017-18 budget highlights for this service area relating to Local Government include the following key priorities:

- administer the 2017-18 Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program

³⁸ Queensland Budget 2017-18, Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning, *Service Delivery Statements*, p 3.

³⁹ Queensland Budget 2017-18, Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning, *Service Delivery Statements*, p 4.

⁴⁰ Queensland Budget 2017-18, Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning, *Service Delivery Statements*, p 4.

- administer funding of \$5 million over two years from 2017-18 to assist smaller local governments with infrastructure costs associated with the introduction of fluoridation
- deliver additional funding of \$3.4 million, making a total of \$33.7 million, under the State Government Financial Aid program to assist Indigenous local governments to meet the cost of delivering key services to their communities
- streamline administration of local government grants programs and application process
- develop streamlined processes enabling local governments to deliver on time annual general purpose financial statements and to make timely and accurate loan/borrowing applications.⁴¹

The capital works program for the department is \$18.1 million in 2017-18 and mainly relates to works undertaken for Indigenous councils:

- \$11.4 million in 2017-18 (\$14.9 million in total) for Cherbourg wastewater infrastructure
- \$2.5 million in 2017-18 (\$5.5 million in total) for Palm Island wastewater infrastructure
- \$2.2 million in 2017-18 (\$2.4 million in total) for Pormpuraaw drinking water security project.⁴²

5.1.2 Issues raised at the public hearing

Issues raised at the public hearing by the Committee and participating Members in relation to the Minister's portfolio area of Local Government include:

- Works for Queensland: number of jobs supported, sustained or created; scrutiny of reporting from councils on specific number of jobs created; recommended projects
- cost of capacity building per local government; examples of capacity building and measuring effectiveness of money spent
- government measures to ensure long-term sustainability of Indigenous local governments in Queensland
- progress and outcomes related to the Women in Local Government Strategy
- government's response to the *Councillor complaints review: a fair, effective and efficient framework*
- number of complaints about local governments received by department each year and cost for department to investigate
- whether the Women in Local Government Strategy events will be hosted in rural and regional Queensland.⁴³

5.2 Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships

The Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships (DATSIP) has two service areas:

- Economic Participation

⁴¹ Queensland Budget 2017-18, Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning, *Service Delivery Statements*, p 6.

⁴² Queensland Budget 2017-18, Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning, *Service Delivery Statements*, p 16.

⁴³ Estimates public hearing transcript, 19 July 2017.

- Community Participation.⁴⁴

The following table shows the appropriations for DATSIP for 2016-17 and 2017-18.

Appropriations	2016-17 \$'000	2017-18 \$'000
<i>Controlled Items</i>		
departmental services	74,467	85,476
equity adjustment	3,000	6,000
<i>Administered Items</i>	12,571	12,266
Vote	90,038	103,742

Source: Appropriation Bill 2017, Schedule 2, p 7.

5.2.1 Budget highlights

DATSIP's key priorities for 2017-18 include:

- develop an Indigenous Procurement Policy to grow Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses, harness private sector growth and create employment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders
- increase Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's share of total employment in the Queensland public sector and build cultural capability across government
- continue to implement an integrated approach to capital works in discrete communities to maximise jobs for local people and economic opportunities
- work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities that have Alcohol Management Plans in place to support and assist them with the management of alcohol in their communities
- support reconciliation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders through initiatives such as the Reparations Scheme and the development of the Queensland Government Reconciliation Action Plan
- continue the program of land transfers to traditional owners in Cape York Peninsula generating and expanding employment and economic opportunities
- broker education, training and employment opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders
- continue to work with partner agencies to address the impacts of domestic and family violence in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
- jointly lead the implementation of a strategy and action plan to reduce Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander overrepresentation in the child protection system and close the gap in life outcomes for vulnerable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young people and families
- support implementation of the Queensland Government's Strategic Blueprint for Queensland's North-West Minerals Province, which aims at facilitating a strong and

⁴⁴ Queensland Budget 2017-18, Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, *Service Delivery Statements*, p 1.

prosperous future for the region and ongoing opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders

- partner with all levels of government, industry and community representatives to reduce the gap between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous Queenslanders in the priority areas of health, education (including early childhood), justice, housing, and jobs whether they live in remote, urban or regional settings
- reframe the relationship between government and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders through new ways of engagement and exploring innovative investment models.⁴⁵

The capital program for DATSIP in 2017-18 is approximately \$6.5 million, including \$6 million for land acquisitions under the Cape York Peninsula Tenure Resolution Program.⁴⁶

5.2.2 Issues raised at the public hearing

Issues raised at the public hearing by the Committee and participating Members in relation to DATSIP:

- job creation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders
- NAIDOC appreciation service measures
- Indigenous performance budget allocation and performance indicators
- outcomes measured for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders by community and personal histories resourcing and cultural acknowledgement and promotion initiatives
- criteria for measuring the efficiency and effectiveness of Closing the Gap
- whole-of-government coordination approach to ATSIP matters
- expansion of Hymba Yumba school
- transfer of 100,743 hectares of state land and national parks to traditional owners in Cape York Peninsula
- adequacy of budget for the Family Responsibilities Commission (FRC)
- impediments to how the FRC carries out its responsibilities and obligations
- succession planning and appointment of FRC Commissioner
- explanation regarding changes in number of school attendance notices and changes in the reporting of school attendance
- impact to FRC of changes to youth justice legislation
- geographical areas of responsibility for FRC.⁴⁷

⁴⁵ Queensland Budget 2017-18, Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, *Service Delivery Statements*, p 2.

⁴⁶ Queensland Budget 2017-18, Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, *Service Delivery Statements*, p 11.

⁴⁷ Estimates public hearing transcript, 19 July 2017.

Statement of Reservation



Tony PERRETT MP

Member for Gympie



Dr Jacqueline Dewar
Research Director
Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee
Parliament House
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BRISBANE Q 4000
By Email: IPNRC@parliament.qld.gov.au

31 July 2017

Dear Dr Dewar

STATEMENT OF RESERVATION

The LNP Members of the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee wish to make the following Statement of Reservation regarding the examination of the Budget Estimates for the 2017-18 financial year and the portfolio areas of Transport, Infrastructure, Planning; State Development, Natural Resources and Mines; Local Government and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships.

The Palaszczuk Labor Government promised a jobs bonanza but instead has given Queensland a jobs crisis and a budget con job.

The details exposed in the Palaszczuk Labor Government's budget proves that Queensland is facing higher unemployment, higher costs of living, fewer projects started and delivered, and more and more job-stifling red tape under Labor.

Queensland is stagnating, the community is crying out for leadership and we have a government stuck in neutral.

Labor's softly, softly approach is failing Queenslanders, doing nothing is not working, and the economy is hurting.

Families and businesses are paying more through higher taxes, sky rocketing electricity prices, increased living costs and much needed infrastructure across Queensland is not being built.

Instead of leading the way in job creation and job security, Queensland is falling behind the other states. Labor has failed to meet its own employment projections, meaning 80,000 fewer jobs will be created over the next three years. Youth unemployment is out of control - above 20% in many parts of Queensland and up to 50% in the Outback Region.

Approach to the proceeding

The LNP members felt that the Ministers treated the proceedings as an irritant which inconvenienced them. They resorted to measures which undermined the integrity of being able to examine Departmental performances. Tactics used included: failing to produce answers to Question on Notice within the prescribed timeframe; employing time wasting and delaying strategies to shield Ministers and departmental officers from questioning; answering on behalf of departmental officers who were clearly capable of answering; and debating the issues under examination rather than answering questions.

Answers to Questions on Notice

LNP Members of the Committee were disappointed with the tardy responses to the Answers to Portfolio Questions on Notice. Standing Order 182(3) was breached when the Answers to Questions on Notice to the Minister for State Development and Natural Resources and Mines arrived fifty five minutes past the deadline.

The Minister's apology to the Committee in his opening statement is acknowledged. However, it should be noted that the Budget Estimates process only occurs once per year and Ministers have significant departmental resources and staff to provide a response in the prescribed timeframe rather than treat the process with contempt.

Answers to questions in the Hearing

LNP Members were disappointed with the manner in which Ministers read from pre-prepared briefs giving lengthy answers in an effort to take up time and avoid additional questioning.

The Deputy Premier disrespected departmental officials by interrupting their answers, cutting them off and attempting to answer the questions herself despite it not being directed to her.

The Deputy Premier continued this practice throughout the hearing in an effort to filibuster the proceedings and avoid examination.

In contravention of Standing Order 118 Ministers attempted to debate the questions on many occasions in order to waste time and block further questions. LNP Members are disappointed that Ministers blocked questioning in this manner and tried to avoid the scrutiny of the Budget Estimates Committee process.

Infrastructure

Cross River Rail

In another display of secrecy and the selective release of information, the Committee uncovered that Building Queensland, an entity whose responsibilities include developing rigorous business cases for projects, didn't consider the 16% fall in rail patronage from 2008 to 2016 during the business case development for Cross River Rail.

Additionally, Building Queensland did not consider the information held by the Department of Transport and Main Roads that shows the estimated passenger load has declined on Merivale Bridge in the morning peak from 5,989 people in 2011 to 5,426 people in 2016.

This data demonstrates there is significant capacity available on the Merivale Bridge and the trains that currently cross the bridge during the morning peak.

Instead of using actual patronage data, Building Queensland has used a crystal ball to forecast a tripling of demand for rail services to justify and support the business case for Cross River Rail. These projections are not supported by the available public data for rail patronage since 2008, and casts serious doubt over when a second heavy rail crossing will be required.

The Government was unable to provide the cost benefit ratio of the upgrade to the Beerburrum to Nambour rail line despite Building Queensland completing the business case for the project in 2016.

Subsequently the information provided to a question on notice, taken during the hearing, confirms the LNP's suspicion that the upgrade to the Beerburrum to Nambour rail line has a higher cost benefit ratio than Cross River Rail.

In effect this means that for every dollar of taxpayer funding invested the return is higher for the Beerburrum to Nambour rail duplication project. Despite this the Palaszczuk Government did not commit any funding to construct the Beerburrum to Nambour rail duplication in the 2017/18 Budget.

Building Queensland advised that the reference project for Cross River Rail includes rail stations that can accommodate 9-car train sets. Queensland Rail doesn't currently operate 9-car train sets and no existing stations in South East Queensland can accommodate 9-car train sets.

It is understood that the capital costs of \$5.4 billion for Cross River Rail do not include the purchase of 9-car train sets or upgrades to South East Queensland's other rail stations to accommodate 9-car train sets. Again, this supports the LNP assertions that the real costs of the Cross River Rail project are more than \$15 billion.

Although the Chief Executive Officer of the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority was listed on the witness list tabled in the Parliament, the Deputy Premier and the Member for Bulimba claimed the witness list did not include the Chief Executive Officer.

The Hansard extract is below:

"Ms FARMER: It is my understanding that members of the opposition were able to see a list of officers who were approved to attend this hearing. They had an opportunity if they had any problems with that to raise it at that time.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: My understanding is there was someone on the list.

CHAIR: We have a problem. There was no person—

Ms TRAD: I have a point of order. That list was published in the parliament. Every single Member of Parliament had an opportunity to have a look at the list of CEOs who were requested to attend estimates hearings and to answer questions. There was no CEO of Cross River Rail Delivery Authority.

The member for Bulimba is quite right; there was an opportunity for members of the opposition to be involved in that and nothing was heard from the member for Nanango. I am very happy to take any questions."

The Member for South Brisbane later clarified this misleading statement and then claimed the "Acting Head" of the Cross River Rail, announced on 15 June, 2017, was not the CEO.

The LNP notes that the Parliament passed the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority Bill at the end of 2016, yet after nearly 8 months the Palaszczuk Labor Government is yet to recruit a Chief Executive Officer.

The LNP tabled a delivery schedule from the secret Cross River Rail business case, that showed Expressions of Interest and Request for Proposals for 5 packages of work should have been released in early 2017. This demonstrates Cross River Rail is hopelessly behind schedule. The Committee was not provided with any information to demonstrate that the project was on track.

Works for Queensland

The Palaszczuk Labor Government has claimed the \$200 million Works for Queensland program will support 6,000 jobs.

These job generation figures are dubious given Queensland Treasury uses a multiplier of 3.1 jobs per million invested for capital projects. The implied multiplier for Works for Queensland is nearly 10 times larger than the Treasury multiplier and the Director-General was unable to detail whether the jobs supported were full- or part-time.

“Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Carroll, I refer to that program. Did the monthly reports for that program provided by councils include whether the job creation estimates were met?”

Mr Carroll: The monthly reporting that comes in from councils reports not only on the progress to date and the actual estimate of time to finish those but also on the jobs. For example, in Yarrabah we have seen a report of 46 jobs for the \$2.8 million in the program just reported to us.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Are those jobs supported jobs—full-time jobs for a full year, as is the normal convention—or are they based on a different methodology?

Mr Carroll: The methodology based on the jobs reported by councils—and I must say they are councils’ numbers—are created, supported and maintained jobs, and that is clear in the guidelines.”

The Director-General admitted the government had not objectively reviewed the jobs claimed under the Works for Queensland program.

“Mr POWELL: Mr Carroll, do you check the costings and the job estimates provided to your department by the councils themselves?”

Mr Carroll: The information is provided from councils.

Mr POWELL: Do you check that?

Mr Carroll: We believe councils’ information as it is provided to the department.

Mr POWELL: You take it as read?

Mr Carroll: Absolutely.”

The LNP tabled an internal briefing note that claimed:

- 3 rubbish bins at a cost of \$5,000 would support 2 jobs;
- \$20,000 of signage at a dog park, would support 3 jobs; and
- Top-dressing a sporting oval really support 5 jobs.

The Government advised that there is no reporting mechanism to determine whether the claimed jobs have actually been realised. The LNP notes that under Labor unemployment in Townsville has reached record highs at 11.6% in February this year.

Planning

We have concerns that the reforms and progress achieved through the development of the State Assessment Referral Agency (SARA) are slipping under Labor. This was a Planning Institute of Australia national award-winning reform to streamline the State’s involvement in the planning system.

The SDS disclosed that the efficiency measures used to measure the success of SARA were not met in 2016/17 and are being discontinued. While it was claimed that these would be replaced by “more exhaustive measures” it is clear that the new criteria are far more subjective than the old and will not in any way provide a rigorous assessment of SARA’s performance.

Transport

Train services for the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games

LNP Members of the Committee are concerned with the answers provided to questions about the availability of and timetable for train services during the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games.

The CEO of Queensland Rail was unable to make any guarantees about the availability of rolling stock during this period, whether the timetable would include reduced services in other lines, and the timing of the release of this timetable.

New Generation Rollingstock (NGR)

In Question on Notice No. 12 it was revealed that 10 of the 15 NGR units in Queensland had had no on-track testing.

This is concerning considering there have been significant delays in the NGR roll out.

The Director-General of the Department of Transport and Main Roads admitted that under the NGR contract each unit must complete 500 kilometres of fault-free on-track dynamic testing. This has not occurred to date.

The LNP committee members also have concerns about the lack of transparency regarding the Deputy Premier’s decision to halt the delivery of any new NGR units.

Train Driver Recruitment

The Committee heard how a union official has been able to return to a Queensland Rail train driver’s job after being away since 2006. In contrast, a qualified freight locomotive driver, who passed in 2008 the Queensland Rail’s required aptitude testing to become a train driver, and has been with QR National and now Aurizon, was recently notified by Queensland Rail HR he was unsuitable for a position.

Labor’s Rail Fail is still hitting commuters with 1,800 services a month cut from the timetable.

The Deputy Premier’s refusal and inability to stand up to the unions and the closed shop recruitment practices at Queensland Rail means the government is struggling to recruit the required number of train drivers to return to a full service timetable.

A question taken on notice revealed that, despite the Deputy Premier’s attempts to verbal the Member for Glass House, the union official in question was the only driver on the type of long-term unpaid leave cited by the Queensland Rail.

State Development

The 2017/18 Budget papers show that the do-nothing Palaszczuk Government has again failed to deliver almost half of the projects it promised under the Building Our Regions fund -Labor’s anaemic replacement of the LNP’s Royalties for Regions program.

The Minister failed to acknowledge that Labor has broken its election commitment to invest \$200 million over two years under the program. After 2.5 years of Labor, the Department of State Development has only spent around half the funds it was allocated.

This is despite the Minister boasting in 2015 that Labor was fast tracking the program, or in 2016 stating: *“A low spend in the first year of a new grants program is not uncommon. While the spend may appear slow, I can assure you that the program is rolling out according to plan—in fact, better than originally anticipated.”*

It is clear Labor lives in an alternative reality when it comes to delivering infrastructure.

Failing to deliver nearly half of the promised infrastructure does not, and should never be, described as being rolled out better than originally anticipated. The Committee also discovered the Palaszczuk Government hasn't funded any projects in the local government areas of Lockyer Valley, Southern Downs, Goondiwindi and Somerset which overlap LNP held State seats. This again demonstrates the rank hypocrisy of Labor which had tried to attribute claims of 'pork barrelling' to projects under the Royalties for Regions program.

Under questioning from the LNP, the Minister and Labor members of the Committee claimed the LNP had 'made up' statistics that business investment in Queensland during the 2016 calendar year had plummeted by 16%.

This is despite these figures being sourced from the Queensland Treasury State Accounts website (<http://www.qgso.qld.gov.au/products/tables/qld-state-accounts-tables/index.php>). Additionally, table 2.3 of Budget Paper 2 shows business investment had also dropped by 7% over the 2016/17 financial year.

If the Minister who is in charge of securing more business investment in Queensland should be aware of this dramatic drop in business investment in Queensland under Labor's watch. Otherwise it confirms then that Ministers and the Government simply aren't up to the job and proves yet again that they are a do-nothing, know nothing Government.

The Made in Queensland program seems to be suffering under similar mal-administration as the Building our Regions funds. Despite the program being announced in December 2016, no funding has been provided to business in Cairns, Townsville and the Wide Bay - regions which at the time of the committee hearing had youth unemployment rates exceeding 20%. This again shows that Labor's policies aren't working and aren't being delivered under the do nothing Palaszczuk Government.

Natural Resources and Mines

Department of Natural Resources and Mines (DNRM) employees are losing confidence in the leadership of their department, according to the results of the 2016 Working for Queensland survey. The DNRM plays an important role in the agriculture, mining and property sectors, which are pillars of the Queensland economy.

The Minister was unable to explain why his own department was losing faith in him and his senior executives and couldn't tell the committee what he planned to do to address this issue. This portfolio should be driving outcomes for regional Queensland but, under Labor, reform has stalled and red-tape is making a come-back.

Almost 11 months after the EIS process for the Integrated Food and Energy Development (IFED) project lapsed, the Palaszczuk Government has failed to release water for economic development opportunities in the Gilbert River catchment. Locals should also be anxious about Labor's proposal to release only 18.4% of the available water in the Gilbert River catchment.

The Minister claimed he consulted locals about the volume and the fixed price sale approach. Those claims have since been contradicted by an organisation representing water users within the Gulf Water Resource Plan. It appears Labor's anti-development policies are again impacting on the agriculture sector in North Queensland.

The Queensland Gas Supply and Demand Action Plan is now 18 months overdue, after the Minister originally committed to releasing the document in the first quarter of 2016. The Minister tried to shift blame onto the Federal Government for the delay and despite insisting the Action Plan would be released 'very shortly' provided no specific timeframe.

The Minister confirmed no modelling has been done as part of its domestic gas reservation policy to show how domestic gas prices will be impacted. The Minister also confirmed that the pilot program (the release of 58 hectares for exploration) is still in the tender process and that the market will determine when the gas comes online.

In summary, this means no additional gas is available to the domestic market as a result of Labor's policies, no gas tenures are currently being developed to supply the domestic market, and the market will determine when this gas comes online for domestic use and at what price. The Palaszczuk Government's reservation policy is just hot air.

Minister Lynham engaged in some creative semantics to try to cover up and excuse the political motivated efforts of his colleague, Minister Miles, to deliberately misrepresent vegetation management activities undertaken by landholders using self-assessable codes in the 2015 Queensland State of the Environment Report.

Local Government

The LNP Members of the committee repeated concerns about the Works for Queensland program and the Minister for Local Government's value in that approval process.

The LNP raised concerns about the cost of capacity building programs for local government continually exceeding the budget target with no accountability and transparency regarding the projects this funding is put towards.

There have also been reductions in a number of local government grants from 2017-18 compared to 2016-17 which the Minister was unable to explain.

In summary, the examination of the local government portfolio can be explained in this quote from the Hansard transcript:

"Mr POWELL: What do you actually do as the local government minister?"

Mr FURNER: I think that is half the problem, member for Glass House"

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships

The LNP members of the committee were pleased to hear the Family Responsibilities Commissioner, Mr David Glasgow, has agreed to stay on with the FRC to facilitate a transition in the organisation.

Concerns were raised about the actions of other departments impeding the work of the FRC including Department of Education changes to school attendance notices and changes made in the Youth Justice Act. It is unacceptable the Minister has not raised the negative consequences of these actions with the Education Minister and the Attorney-General.

The LNP raised concerns about the department's ability to coordinate whole-of-government policy under the leadership of the Palaszczuk Labor Government.

While it is important to measure community sentiment for activities run by the department, the LNP raised concerns that the measures in the SDS could become ineffective if only 55 people were surveyed for their views on events held for NAIDOC week.

Many programs run in the portfolio do not seem to have KPIs or any other form of measuring the efficacy of the funding. While this is not the only measure of the worthiness of funding initiatives, it is important for these programs to be monitored in the interests of improved outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders.

Debt

Under Labor debt is increasing to more than \$80 billion for the first time in Queensland's history. This equates to almost \$16,000 of debt for every man, woman and child in Queensland. Business investment has fallen by \$23 billion and the state's domestic economy is \$6.5 billion smaller than when Labor came to office.

To put this debt in perspective the quantum of interest payments in one per year on this debt (approximately \$10 million per day) could fund the building of 3,650 kilometres of road - a distance that is slightly longer than the direct distance from Brisbane to Perth.

Conclusion

Queenslanders deserve better.

A Tim Nicholls led Liberal-National government will Build a Better Queensland. The LNP's Plan will create jobs, support small business, invest in education to raise standards, and we will provide better services for families and retirees.

We will restore business confidence and get investment flowing to create jobs throughout all of Queensland.

An LNP Government will reduce the risk to our economic security by focusing on six drivers to strengthen and diversify the Queensland economy. The six drivers are:

- Tourism
- Agriculture
- Resources
- Construction and Manufacturing and
- Services, Science and Technology and
- Education

Without a strong economy, Governments can't provide better services in our hospitals, a better education for our children or invest in new technology and equipment to help police protect our communities.

An economy can't grow if it's weighed down by high costs and one of the biggest costs is electricity. We'll make sure that Queensland's energy security is not put at risk and that we don't end up like South Australia with blackouts and industry shutting up shop. A 50% renewable energy target in Queensland will mean higher prices and we won't stand for it.

The LNP is committed to leading a government that is better for Queensland. More government isn't the answer to our problems – better government is.

The LNP will be a common sense Government which listens, plans and acts to build a better Queensland.

Only by Building a Better Queensland – will we deliver the jobs needed and restart our economy.



Ann Leahy MP
Deputy Chair
Member for Warrego



Tony Perrett MP
Member for Gympie

