



QUEENSLAND PARLIAMENT

COMMITTEES

Annual Report 2022-23



Report No. 41, 57th Parliament
Health and Environment Committee
October 2023

Health and Environment Committee

Chair	Mr Aaron Harper MP, Member for Thuringowa
Deputy Chair	Mr Robert (Rob) Molhoek MP, Member for Southport
Members	Mr Stephen (Steve) Andrew MP, Member for Mirani
	Ms Ali King MP, Member for Pumicestone
	Mr James Martin MP, Member for Stretton, from 23 August 2023
	Mr Andrew Powell MP, Member for Glass House, from 10 May 2023
	Mr Samuel (Sam) O'Connor MP, Member for Bonney, to 10 May 2023
	Ms Joan Pease MP, Member for Lytton, to 23 August 2023

Committee Secretariat

Telephone	07 3553 6626
Email	hec@parliament.qld.gov.au
Committee webpage	www.parliament.qld.gov.au/HEC

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

Acknowledgements

The committee acknowledges the assistance provided by the committee secretariat, the Queensland Parliamentary Service, the Health Ombudsman, departmental officers, and other organisations and individuals who have contributed to the work of the committee during the year.

Contents

Chair's foreword	1
Report in brief	2
1 Functions of the committee	3
2 Overview of committee activities	3
3 Examination of budget estimates	4
4 Bill inquiries	5
4.1 Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 (Report No. 21)	5
4.2 Public Health and Other Legislation (COVID-19 Management) Amendment Bill 2022 (Report No. 24)	6
4.3 Environmental Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 (Report No. 27)	7
4.4 Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 (Report No. 29)	7
4.5 Waste Reduction and Recycling and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023 (Report No. 31)	8
4.6 Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Amendment Bill 2023 (Report No. 32)	9
4.7 Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (Surgeons) Amendment Bill 2023 (Report No. 35)	10
5 Other inquiries	10
5.1 Public accounts inquiries	10
5.1.1 Auditor-General reports	10
5.2 Public works inquiries	13
5.3 Inquiries into other matters	14
5.3.1 Inquiry into reducing rates of e-cigarette use in Queensland	14
6 Scrutiny of subordinate legislation	14
7 Consideration of forms authorised by legislation	17
8 Statutory oversight	17
9 Committee expenditure	18
Appendix A: Meeting attendance record	20

Chair's foreword

This report details the activities of the Health and Environment Committee from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023.

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

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

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





Aaron Harper MP
Chair

Report in brief

The Health and Environment Committee is a portfolio committee with responsibility for:

- Health, Mental Health, Ambulance Services and Women
- Environment, Great Barrier Reef, Science and Multicultural Affairs.¹

In the 2022-23 financial year, the committee:					
	examined 7 bills		conducted 1 inquiry referred by the Legislative Assembly		reviewed 31 pieces of subordinate legislation

The committee’s examination of 7 bills during the year included proposals to:

- replace the temporary emergency legislative framework which was enacted to respond to the pandemic with new temporary powers to make public health directions to manage COVID-19 in Queensland²
- provide for a range of amendments related to the circular economy, resource recovery, and environmental protection, such as including the *circular economy principle* in the *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011*; allowing another pathway for low risk materials to be more readily remanufactured or repurposed; allowing for more flexibility in regulatory intervention in investigations of resource recovery areas; removing the automatic levy exemption for the disposal of clean earth; banning the outdoor release of lighter-than-air balloons; and setting the expiry date for exemption from the ban on single-use plastic parts of shelf-ready products³
- reduce the smoking rate in Queensland and provide further protections for the community from second-hand smoke and the illicit tobacco trade⁴
- amend the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law to protect the title ‘surgeon’ within the medical profession in order to strengthen the regulation of cosmetic surgery in Australia, and also to clarify the decisions a tribunal may make after hearing a matter about a registered health practitioner.⁵

In addition to scrutinising legislation, the committee conducted an inquiry referred by the Legislative Assembly: to inquire into and report on reducing rates of e-cigarette use in Queensland.

In July 2022, the committee examined portfolio budget estimates for 2022-23.

The committee also considered 4 Auditor-General reports during the year, and exercised its oversight of the Health Ombudsman and the operation of the health service complaints management system in Queensland.

The committee’s total expenditure for the year was \$419,075.

¹ As set out in Schedule 6 of the Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Assembly.
² Public Health and Other Legislation (COVID-19 Management) Amendment Bill 2022.
³ Waste Reduction and Recycling and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023.
⁴ Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Amendment Bill 2023.
⁵ Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (Surgeons) Amendment Bill 2023.

1 Functions of the committee

The Health and Environment Committee is a portfolio committee responsible for:

- Health, Mental Health, Ambulance Services and Women
- Environment, Great Barrier Reef, Science and Multicultural Affairs.⁶

The committee has a broad range of responsibilities within its portfolio areas, as shown in Figure 1. These responsibilities are set out in the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*.⁷ The committee is also responsible for overseeing the performance of the Health Ombudsman, as detailed in Schedule 6 of the Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Assembly.

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



2 Overview of committee activities

In 2022-23, the committee engaged with stakeholders who made submissions to its inquiries. Table 1 (overleaf) summarises the activities of the committee in the last financial year, and reflects the committee heard from 241 witnesses across 12 public briefings, 4 private briefings, 12 public hearings and 2 private hearings. The evidence provided by these witnesses was invaluable, and helped the committee to complete its work during the year, including the 7 bill inquiries, 1 referred inquiry, and consideration of 4 Auditor General's reports.

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

⁶ As set out in Schedule 6 of the Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Assembly. Note: On 23 May 2023, the Legislative Assembly agreed to changes to Schedule 6 which transferred to the committee responsibility for Multicultural Affairs (from the Community Support and Services Committee), and Women (from the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee), assigned to the committee responsibility for a new portfolio, Mental Health, and removed from the Schedule the portfolio of Youth Affairs (which had been one of the committee's areas of responsibility from 26 November 2020).

⁷ Sections 92-94.

The committee's reports to the Legislative Assembly during 2022-23 are available from the committee's webpage: www.parliament.qld.gov.au/HEC.

Table 1: Committee activities, by type, 1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023

Activity	Number
Committee meetings	45
Public briefings	12
Private briefings	4
Public hearings – Brisbane	9
Public hearings – Regional Queensland	3
Private hearings – Brisbane	2
Witnesses questioned at private and public briefings and hearings	241
Inquiry submissions received	242
Meetings/briefings with Schedule 6 oversight bodies ⁸	2
Bill inquiries	7
Pieces of subordinate legislation examined	31
Public account inquiries (including examination of portfolio budget estimates)	1
Auditor-General reports examined	4
Inquiries referred by the Legislative Assembly	1
Reports tabled	14

3 Examination of budget estimates

The committee examined the 2022-23 budget estimates for its portfolio areas, which totalled \$14.85 billion. The committee held an estimates hearing with the relevant portfolio Ministers on 29 July 2022.

The committee recommended that the proposed expenditure, as detailed in the Appropriation Bill 2022 for the committee's areas of responsibility, be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly without amendment.

The Legislative Assembly passed the Appropriation Bill 2022 on 17 August 2022.

⁸ Health Ombudsman.

4 Bill inquiries

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

- the policy to be given effect by the legislation
- whether it complies with basic standards for laws, known as ‘fundamental legislative principles’
- whether it is compatible with the human rights of people in Queensland
- whether subordinate legislation is lawful.

The committee conducted 7 bill inquiries during the year. As shown in Table 2, the committee made a number of recommendations in relation to the bills it considered. The government accepted, or accepted in principle, all recommendations made by the committee.

Table 2: Bills examined by the committee, 1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023

Bill	Report no.	Recommendations
Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022	21	2
Public Health and Other Legislation (COVID-19 Management) Amendment Bill 2022	24	1
Environmental Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022	27	2
Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022	29	5
Waste Reduction and Recycling and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023	31	1
Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Amendment Bill 2023	32	3
Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (Surgeons) Amendment Bill 2023	35	1

4.1 Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 (Report No. 21)

The Bill proposed to amend the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (National Law), as agreed by Australian Health Ministers on 18 February 2022.

Queensland is the host jurisdiction for the National Law, under the Intergovernmental Agreement for a National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (National Scheme) for the Health Professions between all states and territories and the Commonwealth. The National Law is set out in the schedule to the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009* (Qld). The National Scheme ensures only health practitioners who are suitably trained and qualified to practise competently and ethically are registered to practise throughout Australia and provides for uniform standards for health practitioner registration, and accreditation of health education providers.

The Bill implemented a range of reforms aimed at updating and improving the regulation of Australia’s health professions, with the main objectives being to:

- strengthen public safety and confidence in the provision of health services
- improve the governance of the National Scheme
- enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the National Scheme.

Key reforms in the Bill included:

- refocusing the objectives and guiding principles of the National Law to make public safety and confidence paramount considerations, and to recognise the National Scheme’s role in ensuring

the development of a culturally safe and respectful health workforce for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples

- introducing a power for national regulators to issue interim prohibition orders to prohibit or restrict unregistered practitioners from providing health services or using protected titles, similar to the power already given to the Health Ombudsman in Queensland
- introducing a power for the Health Ombudsman and national regulators to issue public statements about persons whose conduct poses a serious risk to public health and safety
- removing barriers to information sharing to protect the public and enable more efficient and appropriate resolution of notifications
- improving processes by which National Boards make registration decisions and manage health, conduct and performance issues.

The committee accepted 40 submissions and held a public briefing and public hearing in the previous financial year.⁹ The committee tabled the report of its inquiry on 1 July 2022.

The committee recommended that the Bill be passed. The committee also recommended the responsible Minister provide an undertaking, during the second reading debate, to not commence the provisions repealing the prohibition on testimonials in health service advertising until the completion of the independent review of the regulation of health practitioners in cosmetic surgery, and the accompanying guidelines and educational material had been published. This recommendation was accepted in principle.

The Bill was passed with amendment on 13 October 2022.

4.2 Public Health and Other Legislation (COVID-19 Management) Amendment Bill 2022 (Report No. 24)

The objective of the Bill was to provide for continued management of COVID-19 in Queensland by replacing the temporary emergency legislative framework which was enacted to manage the response to the pandemic with:

- new temporary powers to make and enforce public health directions to manage COVID-19 as a notifiable condition under the *Public Health Act 2005* until 31 October 2023, and new procedures and safeguards for issuing public health directions for COVID-19
- an extended expiry date, of up to 12 months to 31 October 2023, for the temporary COVID-19 emergency measures in the *Corrective Services Act 2006*.

The expiry of the emergency powers under the temporary legislative framework meant that after 31 October 2022, the Chief Health Officer would no longer be able to issue public health directions to, for example:

- restrict the movement and gathering of people, through widespread lockdowns and restrictions on particular businesses and individual gatherings
- enable Queensland's borders to be closed to other Australian States and Territories
- require quarantine for international and domestic arrivals
- require vaccinations for the general public, for example, when entering hospitality venues
- restrict access to vulnerable facilities, such as aged care facilities and hospitals, unless necessary to support the effectiveness of a direction about isolation or quarantine, masks or vaccination.

⁹ Public briefing in Brisbane on 23 May 2022, public hearing in Brisbane on 8 June 2022; see also Health and Environment Committee, *Report No 26, 57th Parliament – Annual Report 2021-22*, October 2022, <https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/tp/2022/5722T1815-4F40.pdf>.

The amendments in the Bill were aimed at maintaining health system capacity and protecting vulnerable members of the community as COVID-19 continued to circulate in Queensland.

The committee accepted 57 submissions to its inquiry and held 2 public briefings and a public hearing. The committee tabled the report of its inquiry on 12 October 2022, recommending that the Bill be passed.

The Bill was passed on 26 October 2022.

4.3 Environmental Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 (Report No. 27)

The stated objective of the Bill was to improve administrative efficiency and ensure the regulatory frameworks within the Environment portfolio remain contemporary, effective and responsive by amending the:

- *Environmental Protection Act 1994*, including proposed amendments to –
 - the environmental impact statement (EIS) process, which included enabling the early refusal for an unacceptable project, and for an EIS assessment report to lapse after 3 years
 - require public notification of major amendment applications for environmental authorities for resource activities
 - change environmental authority, transitional environmental program and contaminated land provisions, and insert provisions to support the implementation of the Commonwealth *Industrial Chemical Environmental Management (Register) Act 2021* in Queensland
 - environmental offence, enforcement, and legal proceedings provisions, which included provisions to extend liability to executive officers in office at the time of historical acts or omissions that eventually result in a corporation failing to comply with the Act
- *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011* – to allow the sale of banned single-use plastic items to community corrections offices and corrective services facilities, and make other minor, technical refinements related to end of waste administrative processes and interpretation
- *Wet Tropics World Heritage Protection and Management Act 1993* and *Land Title Act 1994* – to better protect the Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Area, including by removing a mining and mining exploration exemption for the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area, alignment with other legislation, and updating references in the legislation.

The committee accepted 29 submissions to its inquiry and held 2 public briefings and a public hearing. The committee tabled its report on 25 November 2022.

The committee recommended that the Bill be passed. The committee also recommended that the responsible Minister give further consideration to the drafting of the Bill's proposed amendment of s 493 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* in regard to executive officer liability, and address, in her second reading speech, issues raised by the committee about the proposed amendment and the adequacy of defences available in circumstances where a former executive officer did not know, or could not have known, an earlier act or omission would lead to an offence against the Act. This recommendation was accepted by the government and the Minister provided advice that the existing defences were considered reasonable and would not be amended.

The Bill was passed with amendment on 29 March 2023.

4.4 Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 (Report No. 29)

The objectives of the Bill were to facilitate initiatives that promote Queenslanders' health, to support the provision of health services, and to improve the operation of health portfolio legislation. The Bill proposed amendments to 8 Acts in respect of the following:

- health, safety and wellbeing measures to support public health staff; clarifying security guard powers at health facilities (*Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011*)

- allowing disclosure of information about individuals working with medicines or poisons; clarifying terms used in pest control/fumigation activities (*Medicines and Poisons Act 2019*)
- establishing a statutory framework for recording tribunal proceedings and providing access to records and transcripts (*Recording of Evidence Act 1962*)
- clarifying and restricting access to copies of records or transcriptions of Mental Health Review Tribunal (MHRT) proceedings; changing requirements for adults waiving the right to representation in MHRT proceedings (*Mental Health Act 2016*)
- authorising disclosure of information to Queensland Health's vision screening health service; extending notification requirements for the Queensland Cancer Register and enabling additional data to be collected (*Public Health Act 2005*)
- enabling disposal exemptions for low risk radioactive material; creating a new offence of failure to ensure a person does not receive greater than a specified dose of ionising radiation (*Radiation Safety Act 1999*)
- changing requirements for doctors to purchase human tissue products approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration's 'Special Access Scheme'; ensuring consistent consent processes for tissue and organ donation across public and private hospitals (*Transplantation and Anatomy Act 1979*)
- changing requirements for water fluoridation decision and implementation notices (*Water Fluoridation Act 2008*).

The committee accepted 12 submissions to its inquiry and held 2 public briefings and a public hearing.

The committee tabled the report of its inquiry on 24 February 2023, recommending that the Bill be passed. The committee also recommended that:

- Hospital and Health Services and Hospital and Health Boards report regularly on progress in relation to their staff wellbeing plans
- the responsible Minister provide further information about the processes for assessments that would be made as a result of the Bill's provisions regarding disclosure of information on the administrative action register under the *Medicines and Poisons Act 2019*
- resources for technical and/or administrative support be provided to the MHRT to make recordings and/or transcriptions of proceedings
- the list of notifiable cancers be expanded in future amendments of the Public Health Regulation 2018 to include all basal cell carcinomas and squamous cell carcinomas.

These recommendations were accepted or accepted in principle by the government. The government response provided advice of actions by the Minister and Queensland Health in relation to the committee's recommendations.

The Bill was passed on 19 April 2023.

4.5 Waste Reduction and Recycling and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023 (Report No. 31)

The policy objectives of the Bill were to:

- remove the automatic levy exemption for clean earth and then remove the definition of 'clean earth', to take effect from 1 July 2023
- ban the outdoor release of lighter-than-air balloons, from 1 September 2023
- enable a thing to be prescribed by regulation to not be a waste, and move the definition of 'waste' from the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* to the *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011*
- include the *circular economy principle* as a principle under the *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011*

- authorise the chief executive of the Department of Environment and Science to make a decision about amending or suspending a resource recovery area declaration
- authorise the chief executive to make a decision about making a payment to a local government, including to mitigate direct effects of the waste levy on households in a local government area
- change the review date for the state's Waste Strategy from 3 to 5 years
- set an expiry date of 31 December 2025 for the exemption from the ban for a single-use plastic item that is an integral part of a shelf-ready product.

The committee accepted 16 submissions to its inquiry and held 2 public briefings and a public hearing. The committee tabled the report of its inquiry on 14 April 2023, recommending that the Bill be passed.

The Bill was passed with amendment on 24 May 2023.

4.6 Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Amendment Bill 2023 (Report No. 32)

The Bill aimed to reduce the smoking rate in Queensland and better protect the community from second-hand smoke and the illicit tobacco trade, by:

- introducing a new licensing scheme for the wholesale and retail sale of smoking products, to aid more effective enforcement of the *Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998* and align Queensland with other Australian jurisdictions
- prohibiting the supply and possession of illicit tobacco
- strengthening enforcement capabilities and powers under the *Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998*, including by facilitating intelligence sharing with other jurisdictions
- modernising and clarifying restrictions relating to the advertising, display and promotion of smoking products, including their application to online trading
- prohibiting the supply and handling of smoking products by children
- extending the prohibition on supplying smoking products to children to include supply by parents or guardians
- expanding smoke-free places, including community spaces used by children
- increasing restrictions and protections that apply to liquor licensed premises.

The committee accepted 31 submissions to its inquiry and held 2 public briefings and 2 public hearings. The committee tabled its report on 5 May 2023.

The committee recommended that the Bill be passed. The committee made 2 further recommendations, aimed at enhancing and coordinating multi-agency enforcement efforts in response to illicit tobacco products, recommending:

- improved alignment of the *Medicines and Poisons Act 2019* and the *Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998* to remove barriers to executing warrants, searching premises and seizing contraband items
- that the government fully consider resourcing enhanced enforcement efforts coordinated between Queensland Health and the Queensland Police Service, and between the relevant state and federal agencies targeting illicit tobacco and vaping markets.

These recommendations were supported in principle by the government, with the Minister's response providing advice on government actions to address enforcement issues.

The Bill was passed with amendment on 25 May 2023.

4.7 Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (Surgeons) Amendment Bill 2023 (Report No. 35)

The Bill proposed to amend the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (National Law) to:

- protect the title ‘surgeon’ within the medical profession to safeguard the public and strengthen the regulation of cosmetic surgery in Australia
- clarify the decisions a tribunal may make after hearing a matter about a registered health practitioner.

Queensland is the host jurisdiction for the National Law. Australian Health Ministers agreed to the amendments to the National Law as proposed in the Bill in December 2022.

The committee accepted 19 submissions to its inquiry and held 2 public briefings and a public hearing. The committee’s inquiry considered a range of factors relating to the proposed amendments of the National Law, including:

- broad agreement among stakeholders that protecting the public from harm caused by unqualified or underqualified practitioners was key, with the goal of reforming the National Law to secure that protection being widely endorsed
- public confusion about the term ‘surgeon’ and use of the term by some practitioners
- the absence of minimum standards for who could call themselves a (cosmetic) ‘surgeon’
- concerns about the regulation of cosmetic surgery and instances of risk and harm associated with the industry
- the expectation that all surgeons have comparable qualifications and advanced surgical training, including in respect of cosmetic surgery which is not an approved specialty under the National Law
- ambiguity around the operation of s 196 of the National Law that sets out the decisions a tribunal may make after hearing a matter about a registered health practitioner.

The committee tabled its report on 2 June 2023. The committee recommended that the Bill be passed.

5 Other inquiries

The committee undertook 5 other inquiries during 2022-23, in relation to public accounts, public works and its other responsibilities.

5.1 Public accounts inquiries

The committee is responsible for assessing the public accounts of entities within its portfolio areas with regard to the economy, efficiency and effectiveness of financial management. This responsibility includes examination of government financial documents including annual reports, and reports of the Auditor-General relevant to the committee’s portfolio areas.¹⁰

5.1.1 Auditor-General reports

The committee’s role includes consideration of reports of the Auditor-General that fall within its portfolio areas.¹¹ The Auditor-General leads the Queensland Audit Office (QAO), which is the independent auditor of the public sector. The Auditor-General reports to parliament on the results of QAO’s audit work, providing insights and advice, and recommendations for improvement.

¹⁰ *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*, s 94(1).

¹¹ *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*, s 94(1).

In 2022-23, the committee considered 4 reports from the Auditor-General. The committee held 2 private briefings during the year with the Auditor-General and QAO officials in the process of considering the reports.

The Auditor-General reports considered by the committee are shown in Table 3, with a summary regarding each report in the following sections.

Table 3: Auditor-General reports considered in 2022-23

Auditor-General report	Consideration completed/ongoing	Committee report no.	Committee recommendations
Report 8: 2021-22 — <i>Improving access to specialist outpatient services</i>	completed	this report	0
Report 9: 2022-23 — <i>Protecting our threatened animals and plants</i>	ongoing	--	--
Report 10: 2022-23 — <i>Health 2022</i>	ongoing	--	--
Report 14: 2022-23 — <i>Health outcomes for First Nations people</i>	ongoing	--	--

5.1.1.1 Report 8: 2021-22 — Improving access to specialist outpatient services

The Auditor-General Report 8: 2020-21 — *Improving access to specialist outpatient services* was tabled on 6 December 2021 and referred to the committee on 24 February 2022.

This Auditor-General's report sets out the results of an audit examining whether, by implementing the Specialist Outpatient Strategy, Queensland Health (comprising the Department of Health and the Hospital and Health Services) has improved patient access to specialist outpatient services and reduced waiting lists.

The report contains 4 recommendations to help Queensland Health address pressure points in the health system by changing how hospitals triage non-urgent cases and embedding proven models of care and effective practice across the state.

The committee held a private briefing with the Auditor-General and officers of the QAO in the previous financial year.¹² In February 2023, the committee determined to take no further review action in relation to the report.

5.1.1.2 Report 9: 2022-23 — Protecting our threatened animals and plants

The Auditor-General Report 9: 2022-23 — *Protecting our threatened animals and plants* was tabled and referred to the committee on 23 February 2023.

Auditor-General Report 9 summarises the results of a performance audit to assess the progress made by the Department of Environment and Science (department) in implementing the recommendations from the Auditor-General's 2018 report, *Conserving threatened species* (Report 7: 2018–19). The Auditor-General chose to follow up on the 2018 report due to the adverse findings and the significance of the recommendations in that report, and the impacts of bushfires and floods on critical habitats and animals since that time.

The QAO found that the department had fully implemented 2 of the 7 recommendations made in the 2018 report, with the department more proactively nominating species for listing as threatened and more quickly listing threatened animals and plants for protection than it did previously.

¹² In Brisbane, 27 May 2022; see also Health and Environment Committee, *Report No 26, 57th Parliament — Annual Report 2021-22*, October 2022, <https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/tp/2022/5722T1815-4F40.pdf>.

The other 5 recommendations from the 2018 report were found to be at various stages of implementation. These relate to:

- nomination of species for listing or reclassification under the Nature Conservation (Wildlife) Regulation 2006, and the need for periodic classification reviews
- increasing the transparency of the threatened species assessment process by publishing it online
- progress on the department's governance framework and plan for the process of listing and reassessing threatened species in Queensland to comply with the national common assessment method, and to meet its obligations under the memorandum of understanding with the Australian Government
- reviewing the classification status of Queensland's native species currently listed in the Nature Conservation (Wildlife) Regulation 2006 to prepare for the transition to the national common assessment method
- monitoring and reporting on the population and trends of threatened species.

The QAO found that much more remains to be done to effectively address the performance and systems issues that led to the Auditor-General's original recommendations, and that Queensland's threatened species remain under considerable and increasing pressure.

The report states that the department advised the QAO that several factors have contributed to delays in implementing the recommendations of the 2018 report. These include the need to coordinate with Australian, state, and territory agencies, competing priorities, and COVID-19 restrictions. The committee held a private briefing about the report with officers from the department on 17 April 2023.

As at 30 June 2023, the committee's consideration of the report was ongoing.

5.1.1.3 Report 10: 2022-23 — Health 2022

The Auditor-General Report 10: 2022-23 — *Health 2022* was tabled on 1 March 2023 and referred to the committee on 16 March 2023.

The report discusses the results of the annual audits of Queensland Health (QH) entities, which include the Department of Health and 16 Hospital and Health Services (HHSs). It also summarises the audit results for 13 hospital foundations, 4 other statutory bodies, and 4 controlled entities.

The QAO found that financial statements prepared by QH entities, hospital foundations, and the other statutory bodies were reliable, and that the timeliness of reporting had improved. However, the QAO suggested annual reports should be progressively tabled as they are provided to the Minister, instead of all annual reports in the portfolio being tabled at the same time.

The QAO also reported that internal controls are generally effective, although some deficiencies were identified in information systems controls. The report made one recommendation to strengthen the information system and cyber security controls of the 16 HHSs.

The QAO found that while the short-term financial position of the sector improved in 2021-22, 2022-23 would be challenging for HHSs, with an increased likelihood of HHSs reporting operating deficits. The QAO also found that the HHS workforce is under pressure due to staff sick leave and overtime, an increase in frontline contractor expenses due to system capacity issues, and an increase in unused staff recreation leave.

The QAO found that in 2021-22, the total number of long waits for specialist outpatient services increased by 80 per cent to around 104,000 patients. The QAO reported that the Queensland Ambulance Service faced growing demand for all its services, and that the time taken for ambulance crews to transfer patients into the care of emergency departments increased significantly in 2021-22.

As part of its consideration of the report, the committee held a private briefing with officers from the QAO on 17 April 2023.

As at 30 June 2023, the committee's consideration of the report was ongoing.

5.1.1.4 *Report 14: 2022-23 — Health outcomes for First Nations people*

The Auditor-General Report 14: 2022-23 — *Health outcomes for First Nations people* was tabled on 7 June 2023 and referred to the committee on 16 June 2023.

This Auditor-General's report examines the effectiveness of strategies implemented by QH to improve health outcomes for First Nations people. The report examines areas directly within the control of QH, including how it delivers culturally appropriate health care, its role as a health system manager, and how it manages the challenges of delivering services to First Nations people in remote areas.

The QAO noted that many of the opportunities to improve health outcomes are beyond QH's immediate control, like economic, education, housing, and environmental factors. Those factors were not examined in the report, however the QAO noted that they present significant challenges that require sustained focus and coordination across government. The report also concluded that improving health outcomes is tied to QH's partnerships with other stakeholders, like the community-controlled health sector.

The report found that QH can do more to improve health outcomes for First Nations people, with First Nations people still overrepresented in measures that indicate a lack of culturally appropriate care. The report acknowledges that providing health care to people in remote communities is an ongoing challenge, and that although QH and the HHSs have embedded First Nations leadership and displayed a commitment to culturally appropriate care, more is still needed to improve culturally appropriate care across Queensland.

The report makes 6 recommendations which relate to:

- HHSs publishing health equity strategy implementation plans
- HHSs providing a local service catalogue to communities as part of their Local Area Needs Assessment process, clearly setting out what health services are available in each community
- the Department of Health working in partnership with each HHS to:
 - develop and implement a coordinated strategy to reduce the number of First Nations people from remote and rural areas failing to attend specialist outpatient appointments
 - implement a systematic way of measuring how effectively QH delivers culturally appropriate care
 - implement an updated workforce strategy that addresses the key barriers to increasing the First Nations workforce
 - improve how it helps First Nations people who must travel for healthcare.

As at 30 June 2023, the committee's consideration of the report was ongoing.

5.2 Public works inquiries

The committee may consider public works undertaken by an entity that is a constructing authority¹³ for the works, or consider any major works,¹⁴ with its portfolio areas.

The committee did not conduct a public works inquiry during the financial year.

¹³ *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*, s 96.

¹⁴ *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*, s 94.

5.3 Inquiries into other matters

The committee is required to deal with an issue referred to it by the Legislative Assembly,¹⁵ or may initiate an inquiry into any other matter in relation to its portfolio areas that the committee considers appropriate.¹⁶

5.3.1 Inquiry into reducing rates of e-cigarette use in Queensland

On 14 March 2023 the Legislative Assembly agreed to a motion that the committee inquire into and report on reducing rates of e-cigarette use in Queensland. The motion included broad terms of reference to consider the prevalence of e-cigarette use in Queensland, particularly among young people; the risks of vaping harmful chemicals; opportunities to increase the effectiveness of preventive activities and awareness of the harmful effects of e-cigarette use, and to improve services and programs; waste management and the environmental impacts of e-cigarette products; and an analysis of inquiries, legislative frameworks, policies and preventive activities relating to e-cigarettes in other jurisdictions. The full terms of reference are available in the committee's report.¹⁷

The committee accepted 78 submissions to its inquiry and held a public briefing in Brisbane and 4 public hearings, in Townsville, Southport, and Brisbane, during 2022-23.

As at 30 June 2023, the committee's inquiry was on-going. The committee was due to table the report of its inquiry on 31 August 2023.

6 Scrutiny of subordinate legislation

Subordinate legislation is legislation made by a department or other entity under powers given to them by an act of parliament. All subordinate legislation must be tabled in the Legislative Assembly, which can disallow it by resolution.¹⁸ To help it decide whether or not to do so, the Legislative Assembly refers each item of subordinate legislation to the relevant portfolio committee for consideration.

When examining subordinate legislation, each committee must consider:

- whether it has sufficient regard for fundamental legislative principles
- whether it is consistent with the human rights of people in Queensland
- whether the explanatory notes provide an adequate explanation of why the subordinate legislation is needed and what it does
- its lawfulness.

During the reporting period, the committee examined 31 pieces of subordinate legislation.

As shown in Table 4, the committee identified matters of concern regarding fundamental legislative principles or human rights in over 60 per cent of the subordinate legislation it examined and reported on in 2022-23. Not surprisingly given the nature of the legislation, the regulations which extended the declared public health emergency powers to manage COVID-19 during the year (SL Nos. 72 and 127 of 2022) raised a significant number of human rights issues.

¹⁵ *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*, s 92(2).

¹⁶ *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*, s 92(1)(d).

¹⁷ Health and Environment Committee, *Report No. 38, 57th Parliament – Vaping: An inquiry into reducing rates of e-cigarette use in Queensland*, August 2023, <https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/tp/2023/5723T1212-BEB3.pdf>

¹⁸ *Statutory Instruments Act 1992*, ss 49 and 50.

In all cases, the committee was ultimately satisfied that the subordinate legislation had sufficient regard for fundamental legislative principles, and any limitations of human rights were reasonable and justified in the circumstances.¹⁹

Table 4: Portfolio subordinate legislation examined, 1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023

Report No.	Subordinate legislation	Matters identified		Explanatory notes adequate
		Fundamental legislative principles	Human rights	
23	Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Amendment (Professional Indemnity Insurance) Regulation 2021 (other SL ²⁰)	1	0	n/a ²¹
	Forestry (Use of Side-by-side Vehicles) Amendment Regulation 2022 (SL No. 61 of 2022)	1	0	✗
	Public Health (Further Extension of Declared Public Health Emergency—COVID-19) Regulation (No. 2) 2022 (SL No. 72 of 2022)	2	12	✓
25	Medicines and Poisons (Medicines) Amendment Regulation 2022 (SL No. 77 of 2022)	2	2	✓
	Waste Reduction and Recycling and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2022 (SL No. 85 of 2022)	0	0	✓
	Proclamation—Health and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2022 (commencing remaining provisions) (SL No. 86 of 2022)	0	0	✓
	Health Legislation Amendment Regulation 2022 (SL No. 87 of 2022)	5	3	✓
	Forestry (State Forests) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2022 (SL No. 92 of 2022)	0	0	✓
	Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) (Cangen-Yangan Indigenous Joint Management Area) Amendment Regulation 2022 (SL No. 103 of 2022)	0	1	✓
	Nature Conservation (Protected Areas Management) (Toohey Forest Conservation Park) Amendment Regulation 2022 (SL No. 106 of 2022)	0	0	✓

¹⁹ The committee also considered that except for minor issues in regard to SL No. 61 and SL No. 159 of 2022, the explanatory notes tabled with all subordinate legislation complied with part 4 of the *Legislative Standards Act 1992*. The committee noted that all of the human rights certificates tabled with the subordinate legislation examined and reported on in 2022-23 provided sufficient information to consider compatibility with human rights.

²⁰ Does not form part of the usual numbered Queensland subordinate legislation series.

²¹ Explanatory notes were not required as the regulation is not part of the numbered Queensland subordinate legislation series. However the Minister tabled a General Outline with the regulation, which was consistent with the requirements for the content of explanatory notes in part 4 of the *Legislative Standards Act 1992*.

Report No.	Subordinate legislation	Matters identified		Explanatory notes adequate
		Fundamental legislative principles	Human rights	
28	Voluntary Assisted Dying Regulation 2022 (SL No. 118 of 2022)	0	0	✓
	Environmental Protection (Water and Wetland Biodiversity) Amendment Policy 2022 (SL No. 125 of 2022)	0	0	✓
	Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) Amendment Regulation 2022 (SL No. 126 of 2022)	1	1	✓
	Public Health (Further Extension of Declared Public Health Emergency—COVID-19) Regulation (No. 3) 2022 (SL No. 127 of 2022)	2	12	✓
	Medicines and Poisons (Medicines) Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2022 (SL No. 129 of 2022)	1	3	✓
30	Forestry (State Forests) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2022 (SL No. 158 of 2022)	0	0	✓
	Private Health Facilities (Standards) Amendment Notice 2022 (SL No. 159 of 2022)	1	0	✗
	Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2022 (SL No. 166 of 2022)	1	0	✓
33	Health and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2022 (SL No. 170 of 2022)	4	2	✓
	Forestry (State Forests) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2022 (SL No. 178 of 2022)	0	1	✓
	Nature Conservation (Protected Areas Management) (Communications and Water Supply Uses) Amendment Regulation 2022 (SL No. 179 of 2022)	0	0	✓
	Nature Conservation (Protected Areas Management) (Dularcha and Springbrook National Parks) Amendment Regulation 2022 (SL No. 180 of 2022)	0	0	✓
	Forestry (State Forests) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 4) 2022 (SL No. 192 of 2022)	0	2	✓
	Health Legislation Amendment Regulation 2023 (SL No. 2 of 2023)	1	1	✓
34	Medicines and Poisons (Medicines) Amendment Regulation 2023 (SL No. 6 of 2023)	1	1	✓

Report No.	Subordinate legislation	Matters identified		Explanatory notes adequate
		Fundamental legislative principles	Human rights	
Under examination as at 30 June 2023	Forestry (State Forests) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2023 (SL No. 25 of 2023)			
	Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Amendment (Paramedicine Qualification) Regulation 2022 (other SL ²²)			
	Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Amendment Regulation 2022 (other SL ²³)			
	Proclamation No. 1—Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2022 (commencing certain provisions) (SL No. 37 of 2023)			
	Nature Conservation (Protected Areas Management) (Girringun National Park) Amendment Regulation 2023 (SL No. 43 of 2023)			
	Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) (Omission of Heathlands Resources Reserve) Amendment Regulation 2023 (SL No. 45 of 2023)			

7 Consideration of forms authorised by legislation

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

During 2022-23, there were no forms within the committee's portfolio areas notified in the *Queensland Government Gazette*.

8 Statutory oversight

Standing Order 194A read with Schedule 6 of the Standing Orders, sets out the committee's oversight functions and responsibilities in respect of the Health Ombudsman. In addition, the *Health Ombudsman Act 2013* (Health Ombudsman Act) provides that the committee is responsible for monitoring and reviewing the operation of the health service complaints management system in Queensland.

The health service complaints management system in Queensland includes:

- the Health Ombudsman
- the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Ahpra, the National Agency) and 15 health practitioner registration boards (National Boards) – regarding the conduct, performance and health of registered health practitioners who provide health services in Queensland.²⁴

²² Does not form part of the usual numbered Queensland subordinate legislation series.

²³ Does not form part of the usual numbered Queensland subordinate legislation series.

²⁴ *Health Ombudsman Act 2013* (Qld), ss 19 and 179.

The National Boards are the:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board of Australia
- Chinese Medicine Board of Australia
- Chiropractic Board of Australia
- Dental Board of Australia
- Medical Board of Australia
- Medical Radiation Practice Board of Australia
- Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia
- Occupational Therapy Board of Australia
- Optometry Board of Australia
- Osteopathy Board of Australia
- Paramedicine Board of Australia
- Pharmacy Board of Australia
- Physiotherapy Board of Australia
- Podiatry Board of Australia
- Psychology Board of Australia.

In accordance with s 179 of the Health Ombudsman Act, the committee's functions are to:

- monitor and review the operation of the health service complaints management system
- identify and report on particular ways in which the health service complaints management system might be improved
- monitor and review the performance by the Health Ombudsman of the health ombudsman's functions
- monitor and review the National Boards' and National Agency's performance of their functions relating to the health, conduct and performance of registered health practitioners who provide health services in Queensland
- examine reports of the Health Ombudsman, the National Agency and National Boards
- advise the Minister in relation to the appointment of the Health Ombudsman
- report to the Legislative Assembly on matters referred by the Legislative Assembly, and any matter the committee considers should be brought to the Assembly's attention.

The committee does not have the power to re-investigate complaints or reconsider a decision or finding of the Health Ombudsman, Ahpra or the National Boards. The committee does not act as an appeal body in respect of decisions made by the Health Ombudsman, Ahpra or the National Boards.

During 2022-23, the committee received and examined investigation reports and other periodic reports and correspondence from the Health Ombudsman in compliance with requirements under the Health Ombudsman Act. The committee also received and considered notifications from the Health Ombudsman under s 85 of the Health Ombudsman Act about investigations that had exceeded 2 years.

During the year the committee held private briefings with the Health Ombudsman, Dr Lynne Coulson Barr OAM, and staff from the Office of the Health Ombudsman, on 24 October 2022 and 17 April 2023.

9 Committee expenditure

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

In 2022-23, the committee's total expenditure was \$419,075. The committee did not receive any revenue.

Figure 2, below shows the three main areas of expenditure. As Figure 2 illustrates, employee expenses for the secretariat staff who support the committee comprised the majority (approximately 88 per cent) of expenditure. The committee's secretariat is a three-person team, supplemented with additional resources from across the Committee Office as needed throughout the year.

Figure 2: Main areas of committee expenditure in 2022-23



After staffing expenses, committee travel and meeting expenses were the highest costs for the committee. The committee travelled to Townsville and Southport for its inquiry into reducing rates of e-cigarette use in Queensland during 2022-23.

Table 5 provides a more detailed breakdown of the committee's expenditure for the year. Technology expenses, and expenditure on legal advice which allowed the committee to obtain expert briefings on each bill's compliance with the *Human Rights Act 2019*, were also significant expenses.

Table 5: Expenditure of the committee, 1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023

Item	\$
Employee expenses	370,809
Meeting expenses (broadcast support & catering)	15,198
Technology (software licences, telephones, teleconferencing & videoconferencing)	7,179
Legal advice	7,188
Printing and supplies	1,704
Advertising	725
Committee travel (including business travel)	16,272
Total expenditure	419,075

Appendix A: Meeting attendance record

Table A1 below shows the attendance of committee members at private committee meetings (PrM), public briefings (PB), private briefings (PrB) and private hearings (PrH) and public hearings (PH) during the reporting period.

Standing Order 202(1) provides that in the case of a committee member's illness or inability to attend, another member may be appointed to attend that meeting or stand in for a particular inquiry. The details of these appointments are included in the footnotes.

Table A1: Meeting attendance record, 1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023

Meeting Date	Activity	Aaron Harper MP (Chair)	Rob Molhoek MP (Deputy Chair)	Steve Andrew MP	Ali King MP	Joan Pease MP	Sam O'Connor MP	Andrew Powell MP
29-Jul-22	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
29-Jul-22	PH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
03-Aug-22	PrM	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	-
08-Aug-22	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
15-Aug-22	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
29-Aug-22	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
05-Sep-22	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
20-Sep-22	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗ ²⁵	✓	-
23-Sep-22	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
28-Sep-22	PB	✓	✓	✓	✗ ²⁶	✓	✗ ²⁷	-
28-Sep-22	PH	✓	✓	✓	✗ ²⁸	✓	✗ ²⁹	-
28-Sep-22	PB	✓	✓	✓	✗ ³⁰	✓	✗	-

²⁵ Joe Kelly MP replaced Joan Pease MP as a committee member on 20 September 2022 under SO 202(1).

²⁶ Tom Smith MP replaced Ali King MP as a committee member on 28 September 2022 under SO 202(1).

²⁷ Dr Christian Rowan MP replaced Sam O'Connor MP as a committee member on 28 September 2022 under SO 202(1).

²⁸ Tom Smith MP replaced Ali King MP as a committee member on 28 September 2022 under SO 202(1).

²⁹ Sam O'Connor MP was present for part of the proceedings. Dr Christian Rowan MP and Laura Gerber MP replaced Sam O'Connor MP as a committee member for some parts of the proceedings on 28 September 2022 under SO 202(1).

³⁰ Tom Smith MP replaced Ali King MP as a committee member on 28 September 2022 under SO 202(1).

Meeting Date	Activity	Aaron Harper MP (Chair)	Rob Molhoek MP (Deputy Chair)	Steve Andrew MP	Ali King MP	Joan Pease MP	Sam O'Connor MP	Andrew Powell MP
10-Oct-22	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
10-Oct-22	PrB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	-
14-Oct-22	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	-
21-Oct-22	PrM	✓	✗	✓	✗ ³¹	✓	✓	-
24-Oct-22	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✗ ³²	✓	✓	-
24-Oct-22	PrB	✓	✓	✓	✗ ³³	✓	✗	-
24-Oct-22	PB	✓	✓	✓	✗ ³⁴	✓	✗	-
28-Oct-22	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✗ ³⁵	✓	✗	-
03-Nov-22	PrM	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	-
07-Nov-22	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
07-Nov-22	PH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	-
07-Nov-22	PB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	-
21-Nov-22	PrM	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	-
28-Nov-22	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗ ³⁶	✓	-
02-Dec-22	PrM	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	-
16-Dec-22	PrM	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	-
16-Dec-22	PB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
16-Jan-23 ³⁷	PrM	✓	✓	--	--	--	✓	-
30-Jan-23	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-

³¹ Tom Smith MP replaced Ali King MP as a committee member on 21 October 2022 under SO 202(1).

³² Don Brown MP replaced Ali King MP as a committee member on 24 October 2022 under SO 202(1).

³³ Don Brown MP replaced Ali King MP as a committee member on 24 October 2022 under SO 202(1).

³⁴ Don Brown MP replaced Ali King MP as a committee member on 24 October 2022 under SO 202(1).

³⁵ Don Brown MP replaced Ali King MP as a committee member on 28 October 2022 under SO 202(1).

³⁶ Joe Kelly MP replaced Joan Pease MP as a committee member on 28 November 2022 under SO 202(1).

³⁷ Subcommittee – Aaron Harper MP (Chair), Rob Molhoek MP, Sam O'Connor MP.

Meeting Date	Activity	Aaron Harper MP (Chair)	Rob Molhoek MP (Deputy Chair)	Steve Andrew MP	Ali King MP	Joan Pease MP	Sam O'Connor MP	Andrew Powell MP
31-Jan-23	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
31-Jan-23	PH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
31-Jan-23	PB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
20-Feb-23	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
27-Feb-23	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
03-Mar-23	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	-
03-Mar-23	PB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
13-Mar-23	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
16-Mar-23	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
21-Mar-23	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗ ³⁸	✓	-
27-Mar-23	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
27-Mar-23	PH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
27-Mar-23	PB	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	-
31-Mar-23	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
31-Mar-23	PB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
03-Apr-23	PrM	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
11-Apr-23	PrM	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	-
12-Apr-23	PH	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
12-Apr-23	PH	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
13-Apr-23	PH	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	-
14-Apr-23	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
14-Apr-23	PH	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	-
14-Apr-23	PrH	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	-

³⁸ Jimmy Sullivan MP replaced Joan Pease MP as a committee member on 21 March 2023 under SO 202(1).

Meeting Date	Activity	Aaron Harper MP (Chair)	Rob Molhoek MP (Deputy Chair)	Steve Andrew MP	Ali King MP	Joan Pease MP	Sam O'Connor MP	Andrew Powell MP
14-Apr-23	PB	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	-
17-Apr-23	PrB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
17-Apr-23	PrB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	-
17-Apr-23	PrB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	-
21-Apr-23	PrM	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	-
03-May-23	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	-
03-May-23	PB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	-
03-May-23	PB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	-
08-May-23	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	-
15-May-23 ³⁹	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	✓
19-May-23	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	-	✓
22-May-23	PrM	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	-	✓
22-May-23	PH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	✓
22-May-23	PB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	✓
30-May-23	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	✗
30-May-23	PH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	✗
31-May-23	PrM	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	-	✗
31-May-23	PrH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	✗
31-May-23	PH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	✗
31-May-23	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	-	✗
12-Jun-23	PrM	✓	✓	✗ ⁴⁰	✓	✓	-	✓

³⁹ On 10 May 2023, the Legislative Assembly discharged Sam O'Connor MP from, and appointed Andrew Powell MP to, the committee.

⁴⁰ Sam O'Connor MP replaced Steve Andrew MP as a committee member on 12 June 2023 under SO 202(1).

Meeting Date	Activity	Aaron Harper MP (Chair)	Rob Molhoek MP (Deputy Chair)	Steve Andrew MP	Ali King MP	Joan Pease MP	Sam O'Connor MP	Andrew Powell MP
16-Jun-23	PrM	✓	✓	✗ ⁴¹	✓	✓	-	✓
21-Jun-23	PrM	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	-	✓

Legend: PrM private meeting PB public briefing
 PrB private briefing PH public hearing
 PrH private hearing

⁴¹ Sam O'Connor MP replaced Steve Andrew MP as a committee member on 16 June 2023 under SO 202(1).