



QUEENSLAND PARLIAMENT **COMMITTEES**

Annual Report 2024-25

Governance, Energy and Finance Committee



Report No. 13

58th Parliament, October 2025

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Governance, Energy and Finance Committee

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

Acknowledgements

The committee acknowledges the assistance provided by the Committee Secretariat, the Queensland Parliamentary Service, departmental officers and other organisations and individuals who have contributed to the work of the committee.

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Chair's Foreword

This report details the activities of the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee (committee) from 28 November 2024 to 30 June 2025.

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

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

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Michael Crandon', with a stylized, flowing script.

Michael Crandon MP

Chair

Report in Brief

The Governance, Energy and Finance Committee (committee) was established by the Queensland Legislative Assembly on 28 November 2024 as a portfolio committee with responsibility for:

- Premier and Cabinet (including Veterans)
- Treasury, Energy and Home Ownership
- Finance, Trade, Employment and Training.¹

This report covers the period from 28 November 2024 (when the committee was established) to 30 June 2025 in the 2024-25 financial period. In that time, the committee:



examined

4

bills



held

7

public briefings and
hearings



conducted

1

site visit

The committee's examination of referred bills included proposals to:

- establish the Queensland Productivity Commission as an independent statutory body
- seek supplementary appropriation for unforeseen expenditure during the 2023-24 year based on the Consolidated Fund Financial Report
- empower the Parole Board Queensland (Board) with the authority to review all decisions made by a prescribed board member after a request for immediate suspension and to validate decisions made by the Board as a result of this practice in the past.

Following its consideration of these bills, the committee recommended that each of them be passed.

The committee also examined the 2023-24 annual report of the Auditor-General and considered 5 Auditor-General reports.

On 27 June 2025, the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2025 and Appropriation Bill 2025 were tabled in Parliament. The committee then commenced preparation for its examination of portfolio budget estimates 2025-26.

The committee's total expenditure for the reporting period was \$313,366.

¹ Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Assembly (Standing Orders), sch 6.

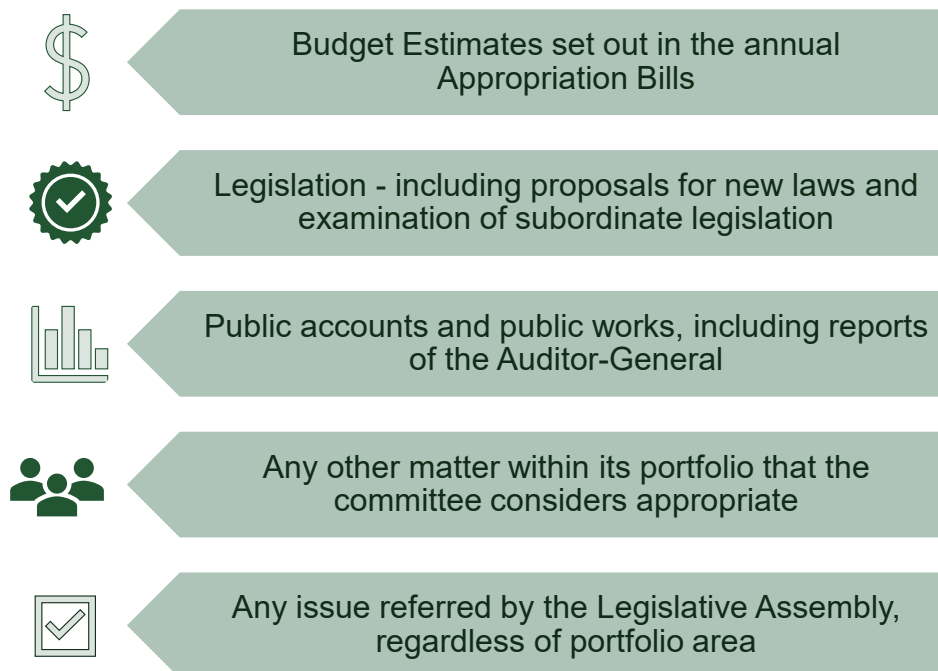
1. Functions of the Committee

The Governance, Energy and Finance Committee is a portfolio committee responsible for:

- Premier and Cabinet (including Veterans)
- Treasury, Energy and Home Ownership
- Finance, Trade, Employment and Training.²

The committee has a broad range of responsibilities within its portfolio areas, as detailed in Figure 1 below. These responsibilities are set out in the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*.³ The committee is also responsible for overseeing the performance of the Auditor-General, Cross-Border Commissioner and Energy and Water Ombudsman Queensland, as detailed in Schedule 6 of the Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Assembly (Standing Orders).

Figure 1. Committees have oversight responsibilities for a range of matters within dedicated portfolio areas



2. Overview of Committee Activities

During the period 28 November 2024 to 30 June 2025, the committee undertook considerable engagement with stakeholders who made submissions to its inquiries.

As detailed in Table 1, which summarises the activities of the committee during the reporting period, the committee heard from 38 witnesses across 4 public briefings and 3 public hearings. The evidence provided by these witnesses was invaluable, and helped the committee to complete its other tasks.

² Standing Orders, sch 6.

³ *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001* (POQA), ss 92-94.

The committee's reports tabled during the reporting period are available on the committee's website. Members' attendance at committee meetings, hearings and briefings is set out in **Appendix A** of this report.

Table 1. Committee activities undertaken in the reporting period

Activity	Number
Deliberative meetings	19
Public briefings	4
Private briefings	0
Public hearings – Brisbane	3
Public hearings – Regional Queensland	0
Private hearings	0
Witnesses questioned at private and public briefings and hearings	37
Inquiry submissions received	24
Interactions with Schedule 6 oversight bodies ⁴	4
Bill inquiries	4
Pieces of subordinate legislation examined	7
Forms authorised by legislation considered	0
Public works inquiries	0
Public account inquiries	0
Annual reports of portfolio entities examined	1
Auditor-General reports examined	5
Inquiries referred by the Legislative Assembly	0
Inquiries into other matters (self-referred)	0
Reports tabled	9

3. Examination of Budget Estimates

On 24 June 2025, the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2025 and Appropriation Bill 2025 was tabled in Parliament. The committee then commenced preparations for the examination of the 2025-26 budget estimates for its portfolio areas, which totalled approximately \$20 billion. The estimates process was still in progress at the completion of this reporting period.

⁴ Auditor-General, Cross-Border Commissioner and Energy and Water Ombudsman Queensland: Standing Orders, sch 6.

4. Bill Inquiries

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

- the policy to which it gives effect
- whether it complies with the basic standards of law, known as fundamental legislative principles
- whether it is compatible with the human rights of people in Queensland; and
- where relevant, whether subordinate legislation is lawful.

The committee conducted 4 bill inquiries during the reporting period. As shown in Table 2, the committee made recommendations in relation to the bills it considered. As the committee did not make any recommendations beyond that the relevant bills be passed, the Government is not required to provide a response to any recommendations of the committee.

Table 2. Bills examined by the committee, 28 November 2024 to 30 June 2025

Bill	Report No.	Recommendations
Queensland Productivity Commission Bill 2025	1	1
Appropriation (Parliament) (Supplementary 2023-24) Bill 2024	2	1
Appropriation (Supplementary 2023-24) Bill 2024	2	1
Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill 2025	8	1

4.1. Queensland Productivity Commission Bill 2025

The primary objective of the Bill was to establish the Queensland Productivity Commission (Commission) as an independent statutory body and formalise its operational independence from government.

The Bill provided for the Commission to:

- undertake inquiries into economic and social issues, regulatory matters or legislation as directed by the Minister
- undertake research into economic and social issues, regulatory matters or legislation as directed or approved by the Minister or on its own initiative
- administer, monitor and review regulatory matters as directed by the Minister, and
- provide advice to the Minister as requested.

The committee made one recommendation, that the Bill be passed. The Bill was passed without amendment on 12 March 2025.

4.2. Appropriation (Parliament) (Supplementary 2023-24) Bill 2024 and Appropriation (Supplementary 2023-24) Bill 2024

The Bills sought approval for unforeseen expenditure incurred during the 2023-24 financial year of \$1,132,595,000 in total. This was based on the Consolidated Fund Financial Report.

Payments from the Consolidated Fund, including unforeseen expenditure, must be formally authorised under an Act of Parliament in accordance with section 66 of the *Constitution of Queensland 2001*. This is an annual process under the *Financial Accountability Act 2009* to finalise the departmental appropriations at the end of each financial year.

The committee made one recommendation, that the Bills be passed. The Bills were passed without amendment on 14 March 2025.

4.3. Corrective Services (Parole Board) Amendment Bill 2025

The Bill sought to amend the *Corrective Services Act 2006* to empower the Parole Board Queensland (Board) with the authority to review all decisions made by a prescribed board member after a request for immediate suspension from Queensland Corrective Services, including where a prescribed board member decides not to suspend parole.

The Bill also aims to validate decisions made by the Board as a result of this practice in the past.

The committee made one recommendation, that the Bill be passed. The Bill was passed without amendment on 11 June 2025.

5. Other Inquiries

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

5.1. Public Accounts Inquiries

The committee is responsible for assessing the public accounts of entities within its portfolio areas with regard to the economy, efficiency and effectiveness of financial management.

This responsibility includes examination of government financial documents including annual reports, and reports of the Auditor-General relevant to the committee's portfolio.⁵

5.1.1. Examination of Portfolio Entity Annual Reports

During the period covered by this report, the committee examined the 2023-24 annual report for the Auditor-General.

The committee questioned officials on the annual report at a public hearing held on 19 February 2025. The transcript of the hearing is available from the committee's webpage.

⁵ POQA, s 94(1).

5.1.2. Auditor-General Reports

The committee's role includes consideration of reports of the Auditor-General that fall within its portfolio.

The Auditor-General leads the Queensland Audit Office (QAO), which is the independent auditor of the public sector. It reports to parliament on the results of its audit work, providing insights and advice, and recommendations for improvement.

In the reporting period, the committee considered 5 reports from the Auditor-General. During its consideration of these reports, it held a public hearing with officials from the QAO.

As detailed in Table 3, the committee reported on 5 Auditor-General reports in the reporting period.

Table 3. Auditor-General's Reports examined

Auditor-General Report	Consideration completed/ongoing	Committee report no.	Committee recommendations
Report 1: 2024-25 – 2024 status of Auditor-General's recommendations	completed	6	0
Report 3: 2024-25 – Central agencies' coordination of the state budget	completed	6	0
Report 4: 2024-25 – Energy 2024	completed	6	0
Report 11: 2024-25 – State Entites 2024	completed	9	0
Report 12: 2024-25 – Managing Queensland's debt and investments 2024	completed	9	0

5.1.3. Public Works Inquiries

The committee may consider public works undertaken by an entity that is a constructing authority for the works,⁶ or consider any major works,⁷ within its portfolio areas.

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

5.1.4. Other Matters

In relation to its portfolio areas, the committee may initiate an inquiry into any other matter it considers appropriate.⁸

The committee did not initiate any additional inquiries relevant to its portfolio areas of responsibility during the reporting period.

⁶ POQA, s 96.

⁷ POQA, s 94.

⁸ POQA, s 92(1)(d).

6. Scrutiny of Subordinate Legislation

Subordinate legislation is legislation made by a department or other entity under powers given to them by an act of parliament. All subordinate legislation must be tabled in the Legislative Assembly, which can disallow it by resolution.⁹ To help it decide whether or not to do so, the Legislative Assembly refers each item of subordinate legislation to the relevant portfolio committee for consideration.

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

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

During the reporting period, the committee examined 7 pieces of subordinate legislation. As shown in Table 4, the committee did not identify any matters of concern regarding fundamental legislative principles or human rights.

Table 4. Portfolio Subordinate Legislation examined

Report No.	Subordinate legislation	Matters identified		Explanatory notes adequate
		Fundamental legislative principles	Human rights	
3	Government Owned Corporations Regulation 2024	0	0	✓
	Further Education and Training Regulation 2024	0	0	✓
	TAFE Queensland Regulation 2024	0	0	✓
4	Energy (Renewable Transformation and Jobs) (Transmission Ring-fencing Rule) Amendment Regulation 2024	0	0	✓
	National Energy Retail Law (Queensland) Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2024	0	0	✓
	Mutual Recognition (Queensland) Amendment Regulation 2024	0	0	✓
7	Motor Accident Insurance (Administration Fee and Levies) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2025	0	0	✓

⁹ *Statutory Instruments Act 1992*, ss 49, 50.

7. Consideration of Authorised Forms

The committee's responsibilities include monitoring the operation of section 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.¹⁰

During the reporting period, there were no forms falling within the committee's portfolio areas of responsibility and notified in the *Queensland Government Gazette*.

8. Statutory Oversight

Standing Order 194A, read with Schedule 6 of the Standing Orders, and relevant statutes set out the committee's oversight functions and responsibilities in respect of the Auditor-General, Cross-Border Commissioner and Energy and Water Ombudsman Queensland.

8.1. Oversight of the Auditor-General

As noted above, the Auditor-General, supported by the QAO, is parliament's independent auditor of all of Queensland's state and local government public sector including departments, government owned corporations, statutory bodies, controlled entities, and the state's 77 councils.

The Auditor-General provides the Parliament with independent assurance of public sector accountability and performance by reporting to Parliament on the results of its financial and performance audits.

In respect of oversight of the Auditor-General, the committee's role is to:

- monitor and review the performance by the Auditor-General of the Auditor-General's functions
- report to the Legislative Assembly on:
 - any matter concerning the Auditor-General's functions or the performance of the Auditor-General's functions that the committee considers should be drawn to the attention of the Legislative Assembly
 - any changes to the functions, structures and procedures of the QAO that are desirable for more effective operation of the QAO or the *Auditor-General Act 2009* (AG Act)
- examine the annual report of the QAO and, if appropriate, comment on any aspect of the report
- examine five-yearly strategic review reports when tabled and, if appropriate, comment on any aspect of the report and make recommendations.¹¹

¹⁰ POQA, s 93(2(a)).

¹¹ Standing Order 194A; *Auditor-General Act 2009* (AG Act), ss 67A, 70.

Additionally, the AG Act requires that the committee be consulted on:

- the QAO's strategic audit plan
- the proposed budget for the QAO for each financial year
- the five-yearly strategic review of the QAO, including the terms of reference and the appointment of the strategic reviewer
- the selection process for, and appointment of, a person as Auditor-General
- a motion to remove or suspend the Auditor-General.¹²

Due to the recent changes instituted under the *Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2024*, the committee is also required to consider and approve funding proposals for additional funding prepared by the Auditor-General.¹³

During the reporting period, the committee held one public oversight hearing with the Auditor-General on 19 February 2025 and conducted a site visit at the QAO on 2 May 2025. Further, the committee examined and reported on the annual report of the Auditor-General for the 2023-24 financial year (as discussed above in section 5.1.1).

8.2. Oversight of the Cross-Border Commissioner

The Office of the Cross-Border Commissioner (Commissioner) was established in August 2024 to support cross-border communities in Queensland. The role of the Commissioner is to:

- advise government about addressing local issues and improving access to services
- update border communities on government policies and programs
- maintain cross-border agreements
- work with other Cross-Border Commissioners and state and territory governments to find shared objectives for border communities.¹⁴

In respect of oversight of the Commissioner, the committee's role is to:

- monitor and review the Commissioner's performance of the functions of the office
- report to the Legislative Assembly on:
 - any matter concerning the Commissioner, the Commissioner's functions or the performance of those functions that the committee considers should be drawn to the attention of the Legislative Assembly

¹² AG Act, ss 9, 11, 18, 38A, 68.

¹³ AG Act, s 29G.

¹⁴ Queensland Government, Office of the Cross-Border Commissioner, <https://www.crossborder.qld.gov.au>.

- any changes to the functions, structures and procedures of the Commissioner that are desirable for the more effective operation of the Commissioner
- examine the annual report of the Commissioner and, if appropriate, comment on any aspect of the report and make recommendations.¹⁵

During the reporting period, the committee held one public oversight hearing with the Commissioner on 13 March 2025.

8.3. Oversight of the Energy and Water Ombudsman Queensland

The Energy and Water Ombudsman Queensland (Ombudsman) provides independent dispute resolution services for residential and small business energy customers across Queensland, and water customers in South East Queensland.¹⁶

The functions of the Ombudsman include:

- receiving and investigating energy complaints in Queensland and water complaints in South East Queensland
- managing dispute resolution between customers and energy and water companies
- promoting the Ombudsman's services
- identifying systemic energy and water issues.¹⁷

In respect of oversight of the Ombudsman, the committee's role is to:

- monitor and review the Ombudsman's performance of the functions of the office
- report to the Legislative Assembly on:
 - any matter concerning the Ombudsman, the Ombudsman's functions or the performance of those functions that the committee considers should be drawn to the attention of the Legislative Assembly
 - any changes to the functions, structures and procedures of the Ombudsman that are desirable for the more effective operation of the Ombudsman
- examine the annual report of the Ombudsman and, if appropriate, comment on any aspect of the report and make recommendations.¹⁸

During the reporting period, the committee held one public oversight hearing with the Ombudsman on 2 April 2025.

¹⁵ Standing Order 194A.

¹⁶ Energy and Water Ombudsman Queensland, Who we are, <https://www.ewoq.com.au/about-us/who-we-are>.

¹⁷ *Energy and Water Ombudsman Act 2006*, s 11; Energy and Water Ombudsman Queensland, Who we are, <https://www.ewoq.com.au/about-us/who-we-are>.

¹⁸ Standing Order 194A.

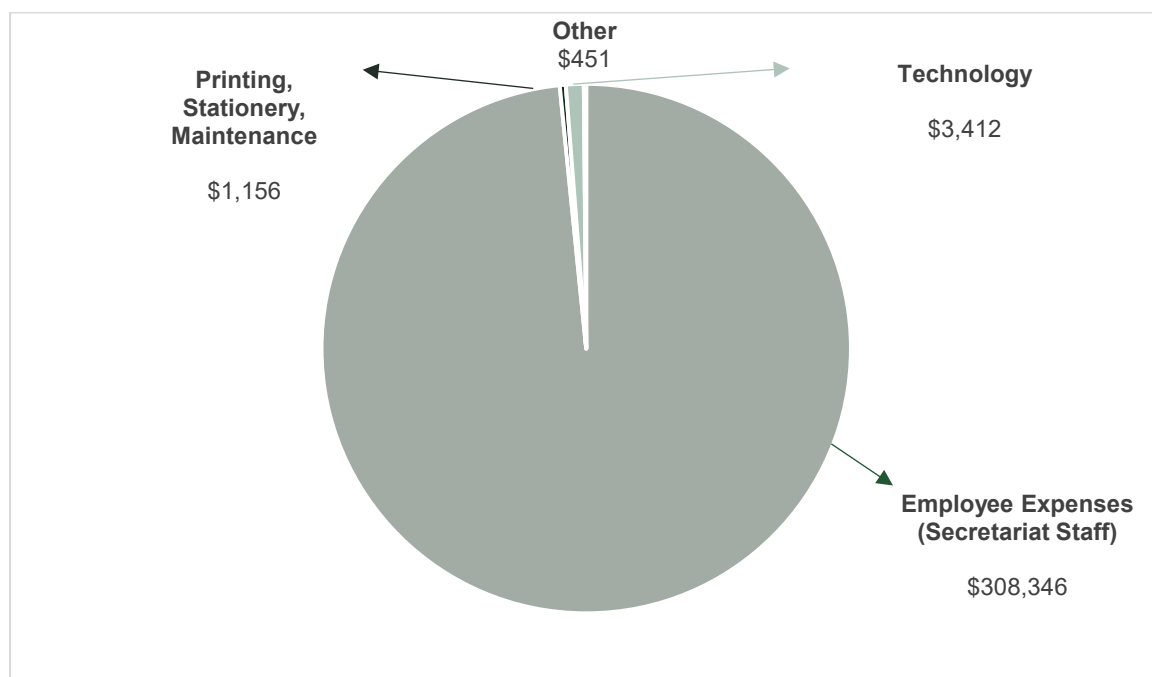
9. Committee Expenditure

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

In the reporting period, the committee's total expenditure was \$313,366.¹⁹ The committee did not receive any revenue.

Figure 2 shows the three main areas of expenditure. As that figure illustrates, employee expenses for the secretariat staff that support the committee comprised the vast majority (just over 98 per cent) of the committee's expenditure. The committee's secretariat is a three-person team, supplemented with additional resources from across the Committee Office as needed throughout the year.

Figure 2. Committee Expenditure from 28 November 2024 to 30 June 2025



After employee expenses, technology was the most notable area of expenditure for the committee. This included expenses associated with telecommunications and software licensing.

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

¹⁹ Please note, employee and technology expenses reported include the period from 1 October 2024 to 27 November 2024 as those expenses continued to accrue during the dissolution period prior to the opening of the 58th Parliament.

Table 5. Detailed Committee Expenditure

Item	\$
Employee expenses	\$308,346
Meeting expenses (broadcast support & catering)	\$308
Technology (software licences, telephones, teleconferencing & videoconferencing)	\$3,412
Printing and supplies	\$1,156
Committee travel (including business travel)	\$143
Total expenditure	\$313,366

Appendix A – Attendance record

This appendix 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 members' illness or inability to attend, another member may be appointed to attend that meeting or stand in for a particular inquiry. The details of these appointments are included in the footnotes.

Meeting Date	Activity	Michael Crandon MP	Chris Whiting MP	Bisma Asif MP	John Barounis MP	Lance McCallum MP	Kendall Morton MP
29-Nov-24	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
29-Nov-24	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
11-Dec-24	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	PB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
17-Dec-24	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	x ²⁰	✓
	PH	✓	✓	✓	✓	x ²¹	✓
22-Jan-25	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
29-Jan-25	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
30-Jan-25	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
05-Feb-25	PrM	✓	✓	x ²²	✓	✓	✓
19-Feb-25	PrM	✓	x ²³	✓	✓	✓	✓
	PH	✓	x ²⁴	✓	✓	✓	✓
13-Mar-25	PrM	✓	✓	x ²⁵	✓	✓	✓
	PB	✓	✓	x ²⁶	✓	✓	✓

²⁰ The Member for Bundamba was substituted by the Member for Bundaberg.

²¹ The Member for Bundamba was substituted by the Member for Bundaberg.

²² The Member for Sandgate was substituted by the Member for South Brisbane.

²³ The Member for Bancroft was substituted by the Member for Logan.

²⁴ The Member for Bancroft was substituted by the Member for Logan.

²⁵ The Member for Sandgate was substituted by the Member for Ipswich West.

²⁶ The Member for Sandgate was substituted by the Member for Ipswich West.

Meeting Date	Activity	Michael Crandon MP	Chris Whiting MP	Bisma Asif MP	John Barounis MP	Lance McCallum MP	Kendall Morton MP
02-Apr-25	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗ ²⁷	✓
	PB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗ ²⁸	✓
03-Apr-25	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
14-Apr-25	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
22-Apr-25	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
30-Apr-25	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	PB	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	PH	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
01-May-25	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
21-May-25	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
11-Jun-25	PrM	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
12-Jun-25	PrM	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗

Legend: PrM private meeting
 PrB private briefing
 PrH private hearing

PB public briefing
 PH public hearing

²⁷ The Member for Bundamba was substituted by the Member for Logan.

²⁸ The Member for Bundamba was substituted by the Member for Logan.