

# Message from the Speaker

I am pleased to present the annual report for the Parliamentary Service for 2015-16 and congratulate the Parliamentary Service for its achievements during the year. I also take this opportunity, on behalf of all Members of the 55<sup>th</sup> Parliament, to thank all staff of the Parliamentary Service for their diligent service this year, both at Parliament House and in the 89 electorates across the state.

In June, the Queensland Parliament had the honour of hosting the 27th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Commonwealth Parliamentary Seminar. I was pleased to welcome the CPA Secretary-General, Mr Akbar Kahn, and 21 delegates from 12 countries, and join them in considering the evolution of parliamentary democracy, parliamentary ethics, transparency and accountability, parliament's role in domestic violence, sustainable development goals and parliament and the economy. Prior to the seminar, I had the pleasure of accompanying the CPA Secretary-General and the Clerk of the Parliament on a roadshow to three Brisbane schools where we met young people and discussed their issues of concern about society and democracy.

Another highlight for me this year was the opportunity to travel to Mount Isa as part of the ongoing regional parliamentary education and training program aimed at increasing the knowledge and awareness of our system of democracy and how our Parliament works among public servants, teachers, students and members of community groups.

This outreach work supplements the extensive visitor program here at Parliament House. In the 2015-16 year, over 40,000 people visited their Parliament participating in school tours, public tours or education programs, attending public hearings and briefings of parliamentary committees, celebrating special occasions at high tea in the Stranger's Dining Room, enjoying music performed by local talented young students at a Seniors Concert, or attending one of the other many official functions held this year. I was also pleased that Parliament House again participated this year in the popular Queensland Open House program, with visitors experiencing a behind-the-scenes look at their People's House.

From 2016 onwards, the Parliamentary Service has responded to significant changes in its operating environment. Through a planning process involving extensive consultation, a new strategic plan and organisational structure has been developed that aligns the organisation's structure with its refined vision and objectives. This new framework will ensure the continued high performance of the Parliamentary Service and enable it to continue to efficiently and effectively meet its objectives as it supports Members in their service of the people of Queensland.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge the solid leadership of the Parliamentary Service Executive Management Group (EMG), consisting of the Clerk of the Parliament, Mr Neil Laurie; the

Deputy Clerk, Mr Michael Ries; and, the Director of Corporate Services, Mr Michael Hickey. I thank them for their service in EMG, some for over 15 years, and welcome the expansion of that group in the year ahead to also include the Parliamentary Librarian and the Director of Property and Facility Services.

Finally, I acknowledge the ongoing assistance of the Committee of the Legislative Assembly in assisting me in making major decisions relating to our Parliament and its precinct.



**Hon Peter Wellington MP**  
*Speaker of the Queensland Parliament*