

Clerk's report



Mr Speaker

I am pleased to present the Annual Report 2017-2018 and financial statements for the Queensland Parliamentary Service.

The calling of Queensland's state general election on 29 October 2017 for 25 November 2017 ushered in the formal commencement of new electoral boundaries and an increase in the membership of the Legislative Assembly from 89 to 93 members. These significant changes followed the passing of the Electoral (Improving Representation) and *Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016* and the redistribution process that was finalised by the Queensland Redistribution Commission on 16 June 2017.

Although planning for the boundary changes had commenced after June 2017, the earlier than anticipated election meant that after the election the Parliamentary Service had to quickly set about establishing the required new electorate offices as well as providing accommodation for the extra members within the parliamentary precinct soon after the 2017 election. The redistribution, which was Queensland's biggest electoral boundary overhaul since 1992, not only created the need for new offices, it also impacted on numerous existing electorate offices. The boundary changes placed 10 existing office locations into a neighbouring electorate. To date, four of these affected electorates have had new offices opened within their electorates. It is an ongoing project to relocate the remaining impacted offices and I thank those Members involved for their understanding in this regard.

Newly elected Members participated in the Parliament's New Members' Induction Program which was held over five days during December 2017 and January 2018. This program was a great success with very positive feedback being received from participating Members. A follow up session was held in March 2018 which was very well received by those new members that attended.

A major milestone was reached during October 2017 with the completion of the Stonework Restoration Program on Parliament House. This project commenced in 1993-1994 with works having progressed around 12 stages of the Parliament House building over the 24 years of the project. The removal of scaffolding from the Parliament's centre-tower late last year revealed the incredible skills and craftsmanship of the team of stonemasons who have undertaken these works. It was a great privilege to then thank those stonemasons and the parliamentary staff who oversaw this project at a special function held for them soon afterwards.

The completion of the stone work on Parliament House was timely as it allowed the building to be proudly displayed in August 2018 - the 150th year since its opening. Planning for events to mark this significant anniversary commenced during 2017-18. Other restoration projects such as the painting of the Parliament's interior were also completed in recent years and the building is now looking in its best condition for perhaps its entire life. This is something for which Queenslanders can be very proud of as Parliament House is our most culturally significant building. I wish to thank all staff who are involved on a day-to-day basis in the preservation and conservation of Parliament House. It is often a difficult and challenging responsibility with the building effectively being a living and working museum, but the achievements over the last 25 years are now clear to see. The final stage of the Stonework Restoration Program is to ensure the Parliament's perimeter fence is restored and strengthened.

The results of the annual survey of Members of Parliament, which was conducted in 2018, were pleasing with Members providing a 97% response that they were satisfied with the performance of the Parliamentary Service as a whole in regards to the organisation's delivery of its four objectives. The survey results also guided management in where further improvements are required.

Queensland's system of parliamentary committees have continued their valuable contribution to the work of the House during 2017-18. Committee members and staff travel throughout the state in order to listen to the views of Queenslanders and better understand the impacts of proposed new laws. The large volume of work completed by parliamentary committees impacts a number of areas across the service. But the contribution played by these committees to enable public consultation and public input into bills, references and other inquiries to the work of the Legislative Assembly cannot be understated.

I certify that this Annual Report complies with:

- the prescribed requirements of the *Financial Accountability Act 2009* and the *Financial and Performance Management Standard 2009*; and
- the detailed requirements set out in the Annual report requirements for Queensland Government agencies.

A checklist outlining the annual reporting requirements can be found on pages 86-87 of this annual report.

Yours sincerely



Neil Laurie
Clerk of the Parliament