



Speaker of the Legislative Assembly Parliament of Queensland

Media Statement

Thursday 16 June 2011

Reforms to strengthen State Parliament's committee system approved

Reforms aimed at strengthening the Queensland Parliament's committee system were agreed to by State Parliament today.

Speaker John Mickel said the new parliamentary committee system would enhance the Parliament's scrutiny of proposed legislation and also government expenditure.

Seven new committees, each aligned to specific areas of government responsibility, will replace the previous committee system that has operated since 1994.

"These new portfolio-based committees will be better able to scrutinise actions proposed by the government of the day through their powers to examine Bills introduced into the Parliament as well as government expenditure," Mr Mickel said.

"The reforms will strengthen the Parliament's oversight of legislation and will also provide for greater government accountability."

Mr Mickel highlighted the historical importance of the changes to the Parliament's committee system.

"These rank highly among the most significant changes to the way the Parliament functions since the abolition of the Legislative Council in 1922," Mr Mickel said.

"Whereas there is still debate and controversy about what occurred with our Upper House 90 years ago, I am certain that there will be an overwhelmingly positive view among Queenslanders of today's reforms to the Parliament's committee system."

Mr Mickel outlined the powers of the new committees, which are contained in amendments to Standing Orders approved by the Parliament today.

"The new committee system is expected to enhance the process of public consultation on Bills that are before the House.

"The portfolio committees' examination of proposed legislation could involve calling for public submissions, holding hearings and engaging expert advice on Bills.

"A committee's examination of a Bill will result in a report back to the House which may recommend amendments to the Bill prior to its consideration in detail by the House," Mr Mickel said.

The reforms originate from a review of the parliamentary committee system by the Parliament's Committee System Review Committee, which reported in December last year.

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PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES – AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY

Portfolio Committee	Area of Responsibility	Ministers	Oversight Responsibility
Finance and Administration Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Wayne Wendt (Chair) • Ms Ros Bates • Hon Desley Boyle • Ms Peta-Kaye Croft • Mr Tim Nicholls • Mr Ray Stevens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Premier and Cabinet • Reconstruction • Treasury • Finance • Arts • Public Works and Information Technology 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Premier and Minister for Reconstruction 2. Treasurer and Minister for State Development and Trade 3. Minister for Finance and The Arts 4. Minister for Government Services, Building Industry and Information and Communication Technology 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Auditor-General 2. Integrity Commissioner
Legal Affairs, Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services Committee <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Ms Barbara Stone (Chair) b. Mr Jarrod Bleijie c. Mr Chris Foley d. Mrs Betty Kiernan e. Mr John-Paul Langbroek f. Hon Dean Wells 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attorney-General and Justice (excluding Industrial Relations) • Fair Trading • Police • Community Safety 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Deputy Premier and Attorney-General, Minister for Local Government and Special Minister of State 2. Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Electoral Commissioner 2. Information Commissioner 3. Ombudsman
Industry, Education, Training and Industrial Relations Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Kerry Shine (Chair) • Dr Bruce Flegg • Mr Steve Kilburn • Mrs Desley Scott • Mr Jeff Seoney • Mrs Jann Stuckey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism • Manufacturing • Small Business • State Development and Trade • Coordinator-General • Education • Employment • Skills and Training • Workplace Health and Safety • Industrial Relations • Retail 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Treasurer and Minister for State Development and Trade (2nd committee) 2. Minister for Education and Industrial Relations 3. Minister for Employment, Skills and Mining 4. Minister for Tourism, Manufacturing and Small Business 	
Environment, Agriculture, Resources and Energy Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs Carryn Sullivan (Chair) • Mr Andrew Cripps • Mr Jack Dempsey • Mr Steve Dickson • Ms Di Farmer • Mr Peter Lawlor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food • Agriculture • Mines • Energy • Water • Natural Resource Management • Environment • Fisheries 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Minister for Energy and Water Utilities 2. Minister for Main Roads, Fisheries and Marine Infrastructure 3. Minister for Agriculture, Food and Regional Economies 4. Minister for Employment, Skills and Mining (2nd committee) 5. Minister for Environment and Resource Management 	
Community Affairs Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Paul Hoolihan (Chair) • Mr Michael Choi • Mr Peter Dowling • Ms Mandy Johnstone • Mr Aidan McLindon • Ms Fiona Simpson 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Safety • Youth Justice • Community Services • Multicultural Affairs • Housing • Women • Sport • Aboriginal Affairs 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Minister for Transport and Multicultural Affairs 2. Minister for Child Safety and Minister for Sport 3. Minister for Community Services and Housing and Minister for Women 4. Minister for Disability Services, Mental Health and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Family Responsibilities Commission 2. Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian
Health and Disabilities Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Lindy Nelson-Carr (Chair) • Mrs Liz Cunningham • Ms Vicky Darling • Ms Tracy Davis • Mr Mark McArdle • Mrs Christine Smith 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health • Mental Health • Disabilities 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Minister for Health 2. Minister for Disability Services, Mental Health and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships (2nd committee) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Health Quality and Complaints Commission
Transport, Local Government and Infrastructure Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs Jo-Ann Miller (Chair) • Mr Scott Emerson • Mr David Gibson • Ms Mary-Anne O'Neill • Dr Mark Robinson • Ms Lillian van Litsenburg 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport • Main Roads • Marine Infrastructure • Infrastructure • Local Government • Building Industry 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Deputy Premier and Attorney-General, Minister for Local Government and Special Minister of State (2nd committee) 2. Minister for Main Roads, Fisheries and Marine Infrastructure (2nd committee) 3. Minister for Transport and Multicultural Affairs (2nd committee) 4. Minister for Government Services, Building Industry and Information and Communication Technology (2nd committee) 	

For more information on the portfolio committees, see Schedule 6 of the Amendments to *Standing Orders* tabled 16 June 2011.

An overview of parliamentary reform and modernisation initiatives and their impact on the Queensland Parliament is available in a new fact sheet published at www.parliament.qld.gov.au