

Annual Report
2018 - 2019

Report No. 25, 56th Parliament
Committee of the Legislative Assembly
September 2019

Committee of the Legislative Assembly

Chair	Hon Curtis Pitt MP, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Members	Mr Jarrod Bleijie MP, Member for Kawana Mr Don Brown MP, Member for Capalaba [Deputy Premier's nominee] Hon Yvette D'Ath MP, Attorney-General, Minister for Justice and Leader of the House Mr Shane Knuth MP, Member for Hill Mr Tim Mander MP, Deputy Leader of the Opposition Mr Linus Power MP, Member for Logan [Premier's nominee] Mr Pat Weir MP, Member for Condamine [Leader of the Opposition's nominee]
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1 Committee of the Legislative Assembly

The Committee of the Legislative Assembly (CLA or the committee) is a statutory committee established under the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001* (POQA).

Section 84 of the POQA provides that the committee's areas of responsibility are as follows:

(a) the ethical conduct of Members;

Note–

However, under section 104C(2), a complaint about a particular member not complying with the code of ethical conduct for members may be considered only by the Assembly or the Ethics Committee.

(b) parliamentary powers, rights and immunities;

(c) standing rules and orders about the conduct of business by, and the practices and procedures of, the Assembly and its committees;

(d) any other matters for which the committee is given responsibility under the standing rules and orders;

(e) any matter referred to the committee by the Speaker.

Section 108 of the POQA requires the chairperson of each parliamentary committee to table in the Legislative Assembly a report about that committee's activities during the year. The annual report must include:

(a) a list of meetings of the committee and the names of members attending or absent from each meeting; and

(b) a summary of issues considered by the committee, including a description of the more significant issues arising from the considerations; and

(c) a statement of the committee's revenue and spending for the year; and

(d) a brief description of responses by Ministers to recommendations of the committee.

Standing Order 135A Role of the Committee of the Legislative Assembly:

The Committee of the Legislative Assembly shall:

(a) monitor and review the business of the Legislative Assembly to aim for the effective and efficient discharge of business;

(b) monitor and review the operation of committees, particularly the referral of Bills to committees, appropriate vary the time for committees to report on Bills or vary the committee responsible for a Bill.

Standing Order 136. Portfolio committee reports on a Bill

(1) A portfolio committee must finally report to the House on a Bill within six calendar months of the Bill being referred to it unless an alternative report date on the Bill has been set by the House or the Committee of the Legislative Assembly in accordance with (2) and (3) below.

(2) The House may by order vary a portfolio committee's report date on a Bill to a period of not less than 6 weeks.

(3) The Committee of the Legislative Assembly may vary the time for a portfolio committee to report on a Bill provided that:

(a) the House has not by order already set the time for report under (2) above or SO 137 below; and

(b) the report date is not less than 6 weeks after the Bill has been referred to the portfolio committee; and

(c) the Committee of the Legislative Assembly reports its decision to the House at the earliest opportunity.

(4) The House or the Committee of the Legislative Assembly may vary the portfolio committee responsible for a Bill (notwithstanding the nomination of the member who introduced the Bill in accordance with SO 129(3)(c)). If the Committee of the Legislative Assembly varies the committee responsible for a Bill it must report such decision to the House at the earliest opportunity.

Standing Order 194B. Consideration of Auditor-General reports by Portfolio Committees

The Committee of the Legislative Assembly shall as soon as practicable after a report of the Auditor-General is tabled in the Assembly refer that report to the relevant portfolio committee(s) for consideration.

This report summarises the committee's activities from 1 July 2016 until 30 June 2017.

2 Summary of issues considered by the committee

The committee tabled the following report during the reporting period:

- Report No. 22, Annual Report of Former Committees 2017 – 2018
- Report No. 23, Annual Report 2017 - 2018

The Committee considered numerous briefings from the Parliamentary Service with respect to its areas of responsibility under the POQA.

The committee considered and recommended amendments to Standing Orders, to be considered by the House, including:

- Standing Order 20 *Custody of committee records*,
- Standing Order 119 *Types of petitions* Provides a minimum number of one joiner to make a valid an e-petition,
- Standing Order 147(1) *Amendments to clauses, schedules etc* Allows for an amendment that a clause or schedule be omitted to remove the potential for error in voting in the House,
- Standing Order 170 *Withdrawal of Bills* Merging the steps to discharge from Notice Paper and withdrawal of Bill,
- Standing Order 189 *Tabling and consideration of reports at Estimates* Removing the requirement for one whole sitting date between estimates report and debate,
- Standing Order 204A *Resolution may be determined outside of meeting by vote on circulated, written motion* Broadening of application of flying minutes to be utilised by the CLA, Ethics and PCCC committees,
- Standing Order 212 *Minutes* Reflecting the move away from the practice of requiring a mover and seconder for all committee motions,
- Standing Order 214 *Dissenting reports and statements of reservation* Clarifying that the giving of notice to the committee secretary regarding a dissenting report or statement of reservation is mandatory and imposes a close of business deadline for the provision of dissenting reports or statements of reservation.
- Standing Order 266 *Examples of contempt* Further, to include new examples of contempt (25) and (26) relating to a member planning or executing, or inciting or encouraging disturbances of the Assembly or its committees, and

- Standing Order 290 *Voting* Addressing the conflict with section 13 of the PoQA (which provides that at a sitting of the Assembly the Speaker has no deliberative vote, but has a casting vote).

The committee also exercises its responsibility under Standing Orders in setting or varying the time for committees to report on a bill or varying the committee responsible for a bill on 33 occasions and referring 30 Auditor-General reports to committees during the period.

The committee had a number of issues referred to it by the Speaker throughout the year and endorsed recommendations relating to the following issues:

- Procedures for incoming members' mail,
- Electorate Office Protocol – Email Use and Management Policy,
- Portfolio Committee travel,
- Discontinuation of provisions of branded stationery to Electorate Offices, and
- Electorate Office relief staff and overtime allocations framework.

The committee met with the Queensland Remuneration Tribunal on 18 October 2018 in relation to the Review of Allowances.

3 Ministerial responses to committee recommendations

Section 107 of the POQA provides that where a committee recommends the Government or a Minister should take particular action, or not take particular action, about an issue; or a report of the CLA recommends a motion be moved by the Assembly to implement a recommendation of the committee, the Minister responsible is required to provide the Legislative Assembly with a response.

In the case of a report of the CLA recommending a motion be moved by the Assembly to implement a recommendation of the committee, the Premier or the Premier's nominee is to provide a response.

A response tabled in accordance with section 107 must set out any recommendations to be adopted, and the way and time within which they will be carried out, and any recommendations not to be adopted and the reasons for not adopting them.

The POQA requires the Minister to table the response within three months after the report is tabled. If the Minister cannot comply with this requirement, they are required to table an interim response within three months and a final response within six months.

The committee did not table a report containing recommendations requiring a ministerial response under section 107 of the POQA during the reporting period.

4 Committee expenditure

The committee had no revenue during reporting period. The committee had no specific budget allocation for 2018-2019, however funds were available from the General Committee Office budget. The committee expended \$2,448 on technology and meeting expenses during the period.

5 Meeting attendance record

The table below shows the attendance of committee members at committee meetings and other activities during the reporting period.

Standing Order 202 provides that in the case of illness or inability to attend by a member of a committee, another member may be appointed to attend that meeting or to stand in for a particular inquiry.

CLA 2018-2019 Meeting Attendance - 56th Parliament

		Hon Pitt MP (Chair)	Mr Bleijie MP	Mr Brown MP	Hon D'Ath MP	Mr Knuth MP	Mr Mander MP	Mr Power MP	Mr Weir MP
1	23.08.2018	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2	27.08.2018	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3	06.09.2018	✓	✓	✓	✓	1	✓	✓	✓
4	20.09.2018	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
5	18.10.2018	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6	01.11.2018	✓	✓	✓	2	3	✓	✓	✓
7	15.11.2018	✓	✓	✓	✓	4	✓	✓	✓
8	07.02.2019	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	5	✓	✓
9	14.02.2019	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
10	28.02.2019	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
11	28.03.2019	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
12	04.04.2019	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
13	02.05.2019	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
14	16.05.2019	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
15	13.06.2019	✓	✓	✓	✓	6	7	✓	✓

Notes:

Mr Power represents Premier Palaszczuk as a member of the CLA

Mr Brown represents Deputy Premier Trad as a member of the CLA

Mr Weir represents the Leader of the Opposition as a member of the CLA

1. Mr Stephen Andrew MP, Member for Mirani, Crossbench nominee for the meeting
2. Hon Stirling Hinchliffe MP, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs substituted for Hon D'Ath
3. Mr Robbie Katter MP, Member for Traeger, Crossbench nominee for the meeting
4. Mr Nick Dametto MP, Member for Hinchinbrook, Crossbench nominee for the meeting
5. Ms Ros Bates MP, Member for Mudgeeraba, substituted for Mr Mander
6. Ms Bolton MP, Member for Noosa, Crossbench nominee for the meeting
7. Mr Purdie MP, Member for Ninderry, substituted for Mr Mander



Hon Curtis Pitt MP
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Chair

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