

Queensland's Parliamentary Committee System

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Today, I will...

- Explain the role of the Queensland Parliament
- Explain where they fit into the parliamentary process in Queensland
- How parliamentary committees in Queensland operate and how citizens can participate in the parliamentary committee process
- Engagement strategies for parliamentary committees



Parliamentary committees in Queensland

- Queensland has no Legislative Council
- Committees are an extension of the Parliament
- Small group of Members of Parliament delegated a role by the Parliament
- All-party membership
- Usually backbenchers (sometimes Shadow Ministers)
- Established by Acts of Parliament, Standing Orders, or resolution of the Legislative Assembly

2011 Reforms to the committee system



Three key features:

- Portfolio based system (all executive government action can be scrutinised)
- Legislation referred to committees for scrutiny by default (policy behind legislation scrutinised)
- Greater community participation (greater emphasis on opportunities for direct citizen input into committee process and briefings/hearings open to the public)

Committees in Queensland

Committee of the Legislative Assembly

- Board of Management
- Business of the House
- Timetable of Bills (if less than default six months)
- Review of Standing and Sessional Orders
- Rules for Code of Conduct and Registers of Interests

Ethics Committee

- Investigate complaints regarding ethical conduct and breaches of privilege

Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee

- Established under the *Crime and Corruption Act 2001*
- Monitors and reviews the Crime and Corruption Commission

Portfolio committees

Currently seven portfolio committees:

Community Support and Services
Committee

Legal Affairs and Safety
Committee

Economics and Governance
Committee

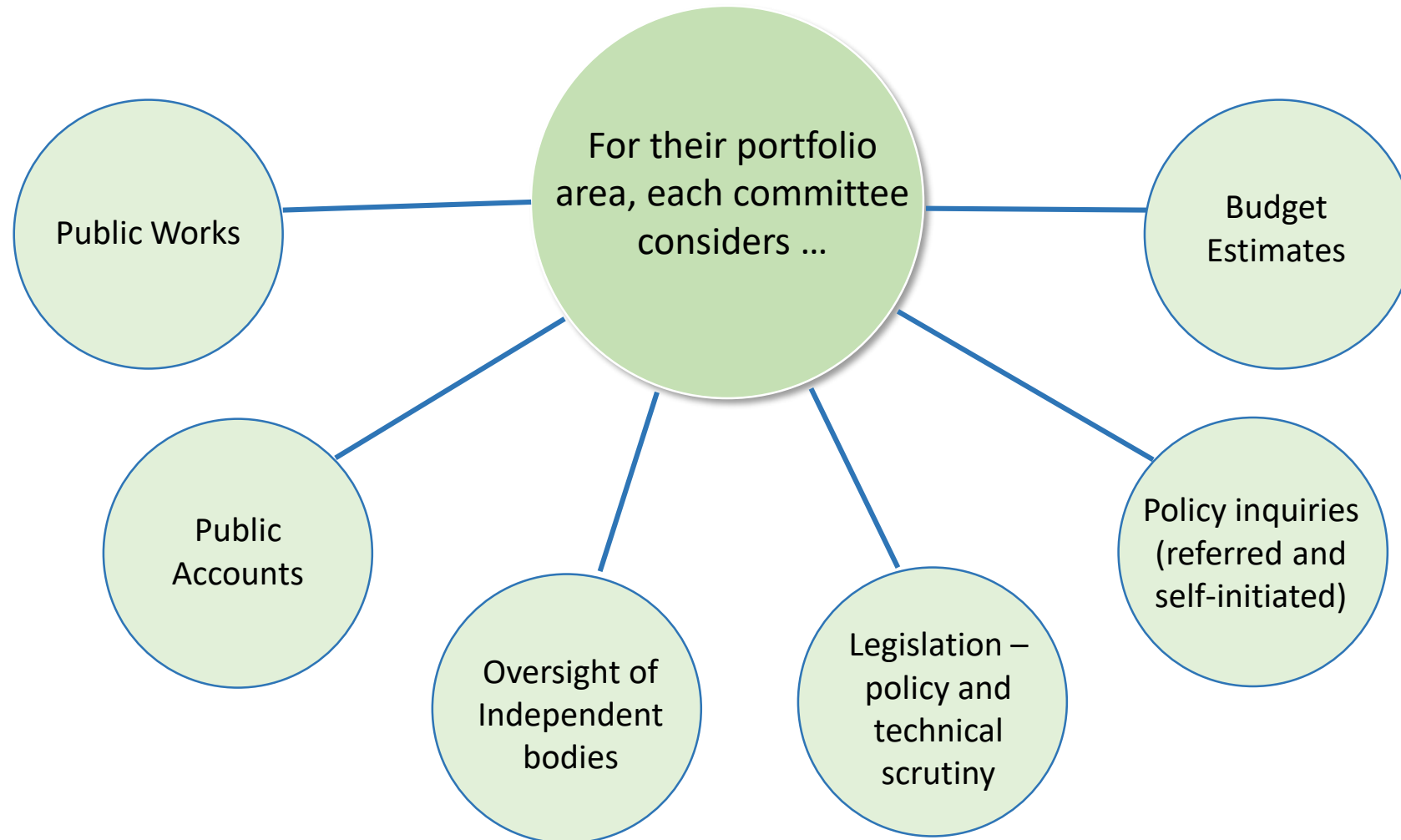
State Development and Regional
Industries Committee

Education, Employment and
Training Committee

Transport and Resources
Committee

Health and Environment
Committee

What Do Committees Do?



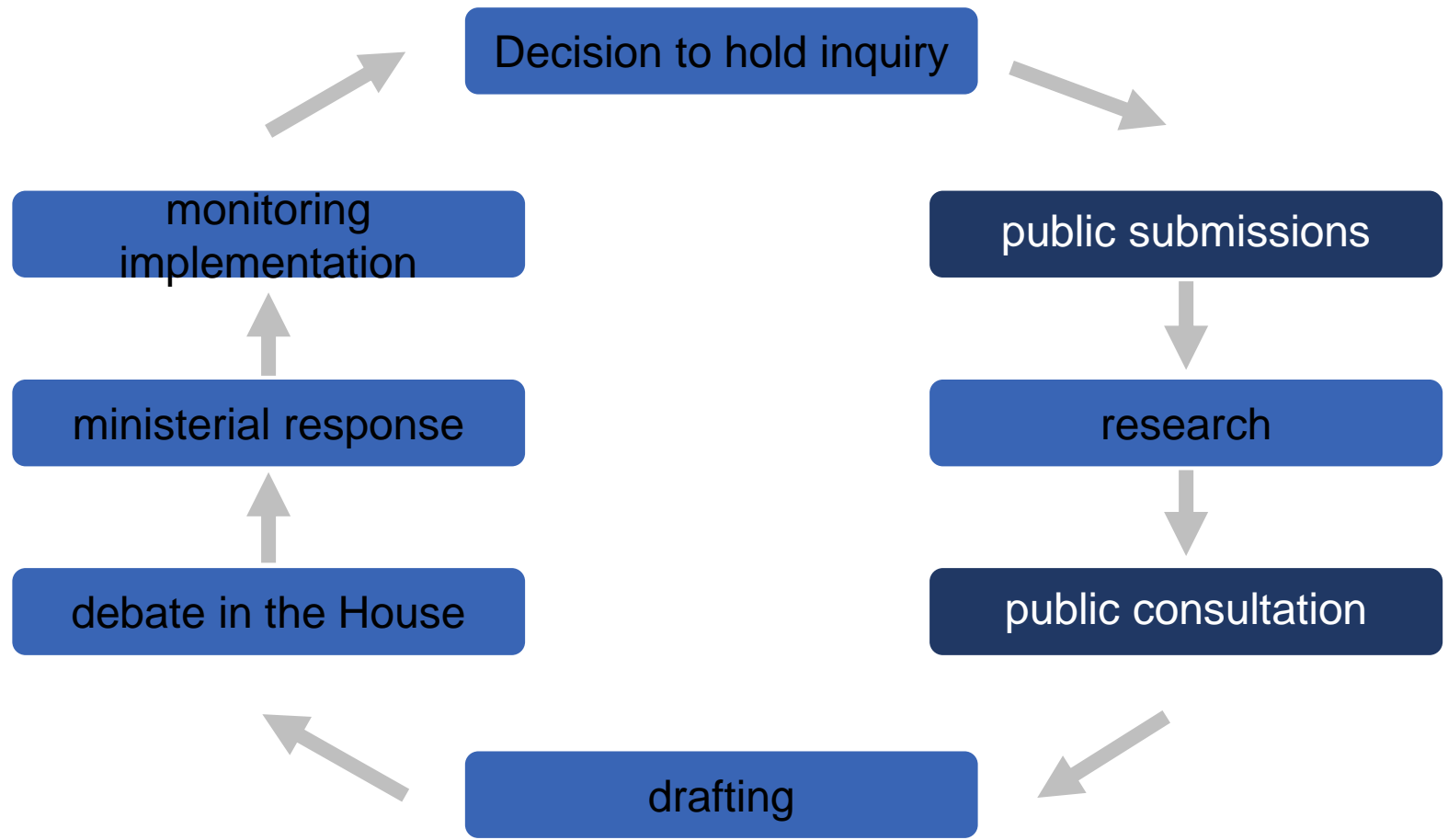
Engaging stakeholders and gathering evidence



Committee stage in Bill examination

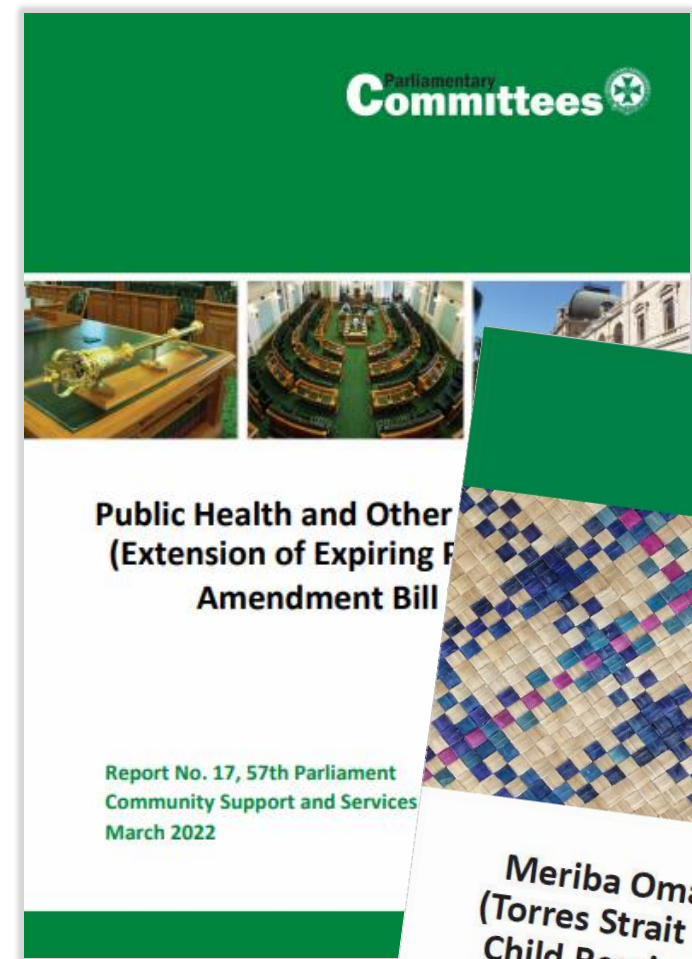
- The Minister presents the Bill to the House, tables a copy of the Bill and Explanatory Notes and a statement of compatibility in accordance with the Human Rights Act 2019.
- Minister nominates a committee to which the Bill will be referred.
- The Minister delivers a speech (Explanatory Speech) for up to an hour, explaining principles and policies underpinning the Bill.
- The short title of the Bill is 'read a first time'
- The Bill is referred to the committee nominated by the Minister.

Policy Inquiry Process



Reporting

- Report adopted
 - Dissenting report or statement of reservation can be added by individual Members
- Report tabled and published



Activity since 2011 reforms

A total of **4,104** people appeared at portfolio committee hearings and briefings during the 55th Parliament (2015-2017):

- 1,664 public servants
- 1,707 representatives of organisations
- 733 individual members of the public

A total of **3,585** people appeared at portfolio committee hearings and briefings during the 56th Parliament (2017-2020):

- 1,369 public servants
- 1,515 representatives of organisations
- 701 individual members of the public

A total of **2,381** people appeared at portfolio committee hearings and briefings since the 57th Parliament commenced (November 2020):

- 1,078 public servants
- 1,071 representatives of organisations
- 232 individual members of the public

Outcomes

- More informed debate in the House
- Better informed Members of Parliament
- More transparent and engaging decision making process for Queenslanders, including public servants
- Engagement with key stakeholders and individuals



Outcomes - Bills

Committee recommendations accepted by Government during the 56th Parliament:

Bills reported on	Legislative amendments recommended	Legislative amendments accepted	Percentage accepted
	35	30	86%
106	Other recommendations made	Other recommendations accepted	Percentage accepted
	81	77	95%

Committee recommendations accepted by Government during the 57th Parliament to September 2022:

Bills reported on	Legislative amendments recommended	Legislative amendments accepted	Percentage accepted
	16	13	81%
23	Other recommendations made	Other recommendations accepted	Percentage accepted
	27	21	77%

Outcomes

- Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Bill 2021
- Waste Reduction and Recycling (Plastic Items) Amendment Bill 2020
- Personalised Transport Ombudsman Bill 2019
- Mineral and Energy Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2020

Meriba Omasker Kaziw Kazipa (Torres Strait Islander Traditional Child Rearing Practice) Bill

2020



Questions?