

**QUEENSLAND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY  
RESPONSE TO NEW SOUTH WALES LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
PRIVILEGES COMMITTEE**

**(a) How are members' pecuniary interests registered in the Queensland Legislative Assembly?**

The *Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Assembly Effective from 31 August 2004*<sup>1</sup> (the Standing Orders) govern the registration of members' pecuniary and other relevant interests in Queensland. Standing Order 263 provides for a Register of Members' Interests and a Register of Related Persons' Interests. Schedule 2 of the Standing Orders contains the rules for registration and procedures for the establishment and maintenance of the registers.

Under existing arrangements, within one month of making an oath or affirmation as a member, each member is required to provide to the Registrar of Members' Interests (the Clerk of the Parliament) a statement of their registrable interests and those of their spouse and any dependent children. Members are required to notify the Registrar of any alterations to those interests within one month of the alteration occurring.

**(b) Where is the register published?**

The Speaker tables a copy of the Register of Members' Interests in the Legislative Assembly as soon as practicable after (a) the first sitting day of each Parliament and (b) the 30<sup>th</sup> June in each subsequent year during the life of that Parliament.<sup>2</sup> The tabled Register is published as a parliamentary paper and is available from the Bills and Papers Office of the Legislative Assembly or the Government Printer (Goprint). There is no provision in the Standing Orders for the electronic publication or circulation of the Register.

The notifications of alterations are included in the tabled Register in each subsequent year during the life of the Parliament. However, the Register of Members' Interests is updated immediately.

**(c) Who has access to the register?**

Any person may inspect the Register of Members' Interests during the normal business hours of the office of the Clerk.<sup>3</sup> The procedure for inspecting the Register (copy **attached**) is published on the Parliament's website.<sup>4</sup>

The Registrar must, on request, make the Register of Related Persons' Interests available to persons specified in the Standing Orders, namely the Speaker, the Premier, any other Leader in the Legislative Assembly of a political party, the Chairman and members of the Members' Ethics and Parliamentary Privileges Committee (the MEPPC), the Crime and Misconduct Commission, and the Auditor-General.<sup>5</sup>

**(d) When was the current scheme adopted?**

The Queensland Legislative Assembly first established a Register of Members' Interests by resolution of the Assembly on 19 April 1989. Since 2004, the rules for registration and procedures for the establishment and maintenance of the registers have been contained in Schedule 2 of the Standing Orders.

---

<sup>1</sup> As amended 26 May 2005 and 30 March 2006.

<sup>2</sup> Schedule 2, paragraph 11.

<sup>3</sup> Schedule 2, paragraph 13(1).

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au>

<sup>5</sup> Schedule 2, paragraph 13(2).

On 30 March 2006,<sup>6</sup> the Legislative Assembly adopted a new Schedule 2 of the Standing Orders (the current requirements for registration and procedures for the establishment and maintenance of the registers —copy attached), effective from 30 June 2006.

**(e) Have any amendments been made to the scheme since it was adopted?**

The Legislative Assembly has made a number of amendments to the scheme since its adoption. Amendments have generally been aimed at enhancing the accountability of members through further registration requirements, clarifying the existing registration requirements and rectifying anomalies. For example, on 19 June 2002, the Assembly adopted an amendment to clarify that shares held by a Minister in a statutory company or government owned corporation on behalf of the State are not required to be included in the Register of Members' Interests.<sup>7</sup>

**(f) What are the satisfaction levels with the scheme and have there been any problems?**

The MEPPC has conducted two comprehensive reviews of the arrangements for the Register of Members' Interests,<sup>8</sup> and concluded on both occasions that the system is working well. The committee noted that there had been no complaints referred to it in relation to the registration of interests.<sup>9</sup>

There have been no significant problems with the system of registration of members' interests in Queensland. The majority of issues and queries that have arisen have been dealt with by rectifying anomalies, updating and modernising the categories of interests that members are required to register and adopting more user-friendly statement of interest forms.

**TONY McGRADY MP**  
**Speaker – Queensland Parliament**

27 July 2006

---

<sup>6</sup> Queensland Legislative Assembly, *Votes and Proceedings No. 101*, 30 March 2006, pp 984-990.

<sup>7</sup> Queensland Legislative Assembly, *Votes and Proceedings No. 66*, 19 June 2002, p 601. See MEPPC Report No. 50.

<sup>8</sup> See MEPPC Reports No. 2 and No. 67.

<sup>9</sup> The MEPPC's reports are published on the Internet at: <http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/committees>.