

# Appropriation (COVID-19) Bill 2020

## Explanatory Notes

### Short title

The short title of the Bill is the Appropriation (COVID-19) Bill 2020.

### Policy objectives and the reasons for them

The current COVID-19 crisis is causing unprecedented economic and fiscal challenges all over the world. It is affecting governments, industry, business, households and individuals.

To protect jobs and safeguard our economy, the Queensland Government has announced a COVID-19 relief package.

Given the quantum of the additional expenditure required, the Queensland Government has sought legislative approval for this funding prior to the end of 2019-20, as opposed to using the unforeseen expenditure provisions in the *Financial Accountability Act 2009*. Also, additional supply is sought in 2020-21 to ensure the Government can meet its COVID-19 related commitments. This provides transparency around additional funding required by the Government as part of the COVID-19 response.

### Achievement of policy objectives

This Bill provides for an increase in supply for 2019-20 and in the interim supply amount for 2020-21 to ensure the Government can meet its COVID-19 related commitments.

There is no supplementary unforeseen expenditure in this Bill as the supplementary appropriation for 2018-19 unforeseen expenditure was included in the *Appropriation Act (No. 2) 2019*. Consistent with this approach, any supplementary appropriation for 2019-20, identified following the completion of annual financial statements, will be included in a separate Appropriation Bill.

### Alternative ways of achieving policy objectives

The policy objectives can only be achieved by legislation, as it is a Constitutional requirement that all payments from the consolidated fund be authorised by Parliament.

### Estimated cost for government implementation

The Bill will provide additional appropriation for departments other than the Legislative Assembly and parliamentary service, for the 2019-20 financial year and additional interim supply for 2020-21 until the 2020-21 Appropriation Bill receives assent.

## **Consistency with fundamental legislative principles**

The Bill is consistent with fundamental legislative principles. No relevant fundamental legislative principles issues have been identified.

## **Consultation**

Consultation has been undertaken with the Department of the Premier and Cabinet regarding the current methodology to address the COVID-19 financial impacts.

## **Consistency with legislation of other jurisdictions**

The Bill is specific to the State of Queensland, and is not complementary to legislation of the Commonwealth or another state.

## Notes on provisions

*Clause 1* provides for the short title of the Act

*Clause 2* provides for supplementary appropriation for 2019-20.

*Clause 2(1)* authorises the amount of \$3,181,010,000 to be paid from the consolidated fund for the financial year starting 1 July 2019.

*Clause 2(2)* authorises the amount mentioned in *Clause 2(1)* to be appropriated for the 2019-20 financial year for Queensland Treasury for application to its administered items.

*Clause 2(3)* provides that the supplementary appropriation is in addition to the amount of \$54,698,900,000 already authorised by the *Appropriation Act 2019* to be paid from the consolidated fund for departments for the 2019-20 financial year.

*Clause 3* provides for further supply on account of 2020-21.

*Clause 3(1)* authorises the amount of \$1,614,800,000 to be paid for the 2020-21 financial year for departments for application to their departmental services, administered items and equity adjustment until the Annual Appropriation Bill for 2020-21 receives assent.

*Clause 3(2)* provides that the further supply is in addition to the amount of \$27,349,450,000 already authorised by the *Appropriation Act 2019* to be paid from the consolidated fund for departments for the 2020-21 financial year.