

Classification and estimated timing for development of Bills*

Complexity	Characteristics	Estimated timing	What timing allows for	Factors that affect timing	Urgent Bills
Low	- small to moderate number of provisions to be drafted or amended (up to 25 pages) - easy to identify what amendments are needed - some analysis or research may be required - can be addressed by applying well-established or readily determinable drafting practices - will usually require only 1 or 2 drafts to finalise	2 - 3 months	The estimated timings are from first approved instructions to providing a final copy for Cabinet The estimated timings allow for— drafting (for information about the drafting process, see the Legislation Handbook, part 3.0). The extent of consequential amendments or transitional amendments may increase the time required to draft	Many factors beyond the time needed to draft a Bill affect the time it takes to develop a Bill Examples include— - how well developed the policy is—unresolved policy issues will generally increase drafting time, sometimes significantly - whether you have clear policy approval, including in relation to specific details of the policy—changes in the policy approach or specific details of the policy once drafting has started, or leaving approval until later in the process, will generally increase drafting time or affect the quality of the draft, sometimes significantly - how clear and complete your instructions are (for information about preparing instructions, see the Legislation Handbook, part 3.4) - whether you need to consult on your legislative proposal and who you need to consult (for information about who to consult on legislative proposals, see the Legislation Handbook, part 3.7.1 and the Cabinet Handbook, part 6.0) - whether your legislative proposal gives rise to FLP issues, engages human rights, includes offences or otherwise involves political or other sensitivities—resolving these issues during the drafting process will generally increase drafting time - your capacity to respond to drafts and queries from your drafting team	If your Bill is urgent, we can work with you to ensure your bill meets the required timeframe However, be aware that compressing the time to develop a legislative proposal or draft a Bill of medium or high complexity may affect the quality of the overall product, for example, by— - reducing our capacity to help you identify gaps, solve problems and find the best legislative solution - reducing your time to consult and obtain advice on issues arising from the proposal, such as FLPs, human rights, offences or other legal issues, which may only become apparent during the drafting process - reducing our capacity to undertake quality assurance checks and ensure consistency with the statute book and current drafting practice Risks of compressing the time to develop legislative proposals or draft Bills include— - comments from the relevant portfolio committee requiring a response from your Minister - increased likelihood of the need for amendments to be moved during consideration in detail - legislation that doesn't operate as intended or needs to be subsequently amended We can work with you to identify options to reduce these risks, including whether elements of the legislative proposal can be progressed separately
Medium	- may involve a reasonable number of provisions to be drafted or amended (up to 100 pages), or a smaller number of complex provisions or amendments - drafting instructions or policy may require development or a reasonable amount of work may be required to identify what the policy intention is or what amendments are needed - reasonable amount of analysis or research required - may involve a degree of originality or careful application of precedents and drafting practices	5 - 6 months	- undertaking D2 review checks and quality assurance checks to prepare a final version of the Bill (for information about the QAC process, see the Legislation Handbook, part 3.3) - obtaining internal department approvals - your Bill to be prioritised appropriately with other Bills on the Legislation Program and other drafting and editing work of the office The estimated timings do not allow for delivery of a consultation draft. If you require a consultation draft of your Bill, you will need to allow for extra time.		
High	- involves a large number of provisions to be drafted or amended (over 100 pages) or may involve a smaller number of highly complex amendments - drafting instructions are under-developed or significant work may be required to identify what the policy intention is or what amendments are needed - significant analysis or research required to identify appropriate legislative solution - may involve significant political or other sensitivities - involves a high degree of originality or careful application of precedents and drafting practices	12 + months			

* For more information and resources about working with OQPC, please see <https://www.oqpc.qld.gov.au/instructing-oqpc>