



Speech by  
**Mr DENVER  
BEANLAND**

**MEMBER FOR INDOOROOPILLY**

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Hansard 21 October 1998

**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL**

**Committee (Cognate Debate)**

**Estimates Committee A**

**Report No. 1**

**Mr BEANLAND** (Indooroopilly—LP) (11.47 a.m.): In rising to speak to the reports of Estimates Committee A, I wish to commend the staff not only of Estimates Committee D, of which I was a member, but all staff within the committee structure and Parliament generally, who do a very dedicated and timely job in delivering services for the members and, importantly, for the public of this State of ours. I do not believe that the community at large generally appreciates the wide range of activities that go on in this place and in the precincts generally.

There is one matter that has not yet been raised. While I am very complimentary of former Speaker Turner, who I believe introduced a number of excellent innovations and made a remarkable contribution in a number of ways to upgrading the facilities within this precinct, there is one aspect that he failed at, and it is now a challenge for the current Speaker. I refer to the issue of the lifts in the Annexe. This is your test, Mr Speaker. Whereas I congratulate you on the work you have done to date in the three or four months in which you have been Speaker, there is one test for you, that is, to get the lifts in the Annexe to function as they ought to function.

I am sure that no other building in this State—certainly in this city—in any normal commercial business operation or undertaking would tolerate the problems and delays that we have experienced with those lifts. I am not talking about only minor delays. Lengthy delays occur with those lifts, together with other general problems. I am sure that there is not an easy solution to this problem, otherwise it would have been solved by previous Speakers. Nevertheless, Mr Speaker, as you are now in that position, I put to you the challenge of solving the problems with the lifts in the Annexe—the ongoing, never-ending problems.

**Mr Hollis:** Put a big ladder up while you're over there.

**Mr BEANLAND:** The Speaker just referred to a big ladder. He might consider that. The stairs get a lot of use. Of course, when going up from levels 3, 4 or 5 to levels 12 or 13 it is a matter of all us young fellows and young women using the stairs. Nevertheless, I believe it would be speedier to have an efficient elevator operation, which we currently do not have.

I turn now to technology, to which a couple of other members have already referred. I notice that some \$400,000 is mentioned in the report in relation to technology. It is particularly important for us to keep in touch with what is happening in the wide world in relation to technology. Before the change of Government, in my former portfolio, I noticed that people in the courts section and other sections had laptop computers. As members of Parliament, we need laptop computers. We have a computer in our electorate offices. That is fine for the electorate assistant or secretary who operates in that office. However, with the allocation of \$10,000, we often have other people come in to help. They also need a computer. Of course, only one person can be at the computer at the one time. The electorate secretary or assistant uses the computer fairly constantly. Additional software is needed. Of course, members also need computers, so I believe we need to move to laptops. I am sure that members will quickly

become accustomed to them and expert in their use, even though many members might not be at this time. When confronted with the issue, we will all have to ensure that we are up to speed in our ability to use particular software. If it is provided, I am sure that members will do that to provide timely service and responses to our constituents, because that is the bottom line.

In this day and age, so much information is coming through the system generally. In the short period that I have been in this place—just over a decade—the material and information coming through this House has multiplied many times over. For members, keeping up with daily tasks has gone from a leisurely chore of reading through material to a task that is beyond most members even if they were to work for 24 hours a day just to read the material, let alone to comprehend it and instigate any necessary action. That is a particularly important issue to consider. Mr Speaker, I am sure you will take that on board as an issue to consider in the short term, not the long term, because it is a crucial issue. We are fortunate to have a great library with wonderful librarians to provide us with timely responses. Nevertheless, so much of that information can be tapped into via the library network.

Mr Speaker, I know that you will consider the issue of electorate offices. I remember that for some time after the last electoral redistribution there were problems associated with electorate offices. One needs to be planning for down the track, particularly for when the redistribution of boundaries is finalised, and the need for new electorate offices. I am not talking about an untimely response, but there is no point in members being elected on those new boundaries and not having new offices for two years.

Time expired.

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