



Speech by

Phil Reeves

MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD

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APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL (ESTIMATES COMMITTEE A)

Mr REEVES (Mansfield—ALP) (12.54 pm): It gives me great pleasure to rise to speak to report No. 2 of Estimates Committee A. I want to congratulate the chair for the excellent work she did and the Premier, the Deputy Premier and the Minister for Public Works, Housing and Racing who came along to the estimates committee and were frank and open, particularly the Minister for Public Works, Housing and Racing—I think even the member for Surfers Paradise would agree with that—and thank them for the way that they took questions from committee members.

One issue under the Premier's portfolio and the Minister for State Development as the Deputy Premier is the Smart State Awards. I want to speak about David Kemp, the managing director of BDS. Members might have heard a bit about David Kemp. In fact, he was in today's paper talking about some troubles on the other side of the House. I want to congratulate David for beating a strong field of competitors. It is a Crestmead business in the electorate of Logan, and the member for Logan would also like to congratulate David on the great work that BDS does. It won the Premier's Queensland Smart Award a few weeks ago. BDS's founder and managing director is David Kemp, and I know that David was absolutely delighted after the company's surprise win in the small to medium manufacturing and mining category. The awards were represented by the Premier at the convention centre. It was a very big achievement and well deserved.

The award demonstrates how someone can start a business from nothing and achieve success through years of hard work. Anyone who knows David knows that he is a very big thinker, not just for his own business but for others. He is a very generous person, donating to many charities, including the Liberal Party, but that is another story. David is a man of strong vision. I should add that he has donated to the Labor Party as well previously. David is a person who looks for strong leadership in government and he believes that the Beattie Labor government gives that strong leadership to the state. David started his business working from a small tin shed in a Seventeen Miles Rock backyard. Today BDS has showrooms throughout Australia and its customers include a number of the large national and retail chains.

The company's metal shelving system and shop-fitting equipment are manufactured at its two Crestmead plants and distributed throughout Australia. BDS continues to invest in plant and equipment which allows it to remain competitive against the growing number of imports flooding the market. The \$10,000 prize money from the Queensland Smart Awards will be used towards the \$500,000 cost of installing welding robots. I know that the member for Logan approached David about a Sudanese family who needed some employment, and David was only too willing to employ many people from the Sudanese community and sees them as great employees. They really appreciate getting a chance with David and BDS.

I congratulate David and his partner Sam and David's family, which is involved in the business. As I said, he is a man of strong vision and passion. If you have a conversation with David, you leave a bit exhausted because he has so many things in his mind that he wants to express. But his passion is his business and BDS. I congratulate him on the great work he has done. He is a well-deserved winner of the

Premier of Queensland's Smart State Awards. I am sure that this company will continue to grow. I commend the committee's report to the parliament and once again thank the Premier, the Deputy Premier and the Minister for Public Works, Housing and Racing.