



Speech by

Ronan Lee

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

Mr LEE (Indooroopilly—ALP) (2.52 pm): I am delighted to rise in the House today in support of the Estimates Committee E report. At the very outset I put on record my sincere thanks and gratitude to the secretariat team—Stephen Finimore, Jodie Martin and Andrea Musch—who did tremendous work in the organisation of Estimates Committee E. I thank all of those other members of the Queensland parliament who served on our committee. I also put on record my thanks to various other people in various government departments and also among the opposition who made the process of asking questions on notice run as smoothly as it did. I believe the committee's hearing on the day ran incredibly smoothly, and I would like to thank all of my colleagues for the way that they contributed to the committee.

Two things stood out for me in the Education section of the hearing. One relates to the great news that was provided in relation to Queensland academies, one of which is in my electorate. The Toowong Academy, formerly Toowong College, will be a wonderful addition to my local community. It does something that is very important to me: it ensures that the site at Bywong Street, Toowong remains used for public education well into the future. That is something that I am very pleased about.

I was thrilled, too, to hear from the minister for the environment about the resources that are being provided for visitor facilities at national parks. It is a shame that the member for Charters Towers is not here, but I was also delighted to hear some great news from the minister for the environment about humane and sensible research into the possible chemical dispersion of flying foxes that involves removing them from a particular area without the National Party's approach of 'just shooting the little critters'.

I make comment on the report, in particular the thing that is not actually in the report—that is, a substantive reservation about the environment section from the member for Burnett. The member for Burnett comes into the parliament on a regular basis and rants, raves, carries on and annoys all of us with prattlings about what we are not doing in the area of the environment, purely because he is the shadow minister. I remember that when the parliament sat in Rockhampton he was asked to place his environmental credentials on the table and he said, 'Well, I am wearing a green tie.' That was his idea of what a great environmentalist he was.

The member for Burnett comes in here and he rants and raves about things that he thinks we are not doing, but is there a significant statement of reservation from him or a dissent about our report on our examination of the department of environment? No, there is not. There is no significant dissent from him. At least the member for Cunningham, who may have a few issues with what we are doing, took the time and made an effort to put on record his concerns. The member for Burnett must be one of the laziest members of this parliament. I can see that other members of the parliament agree with me; they are nodding their heads.

Mrs Desley Scott: We could add some more adjectives.

Mr LEE: There are many adjectives that people could use to describe the member for Burnett. I want to say, as the chair of the committee, that I believe he is lazy. I also put on record my delight at the

great work that the minister's office did in delivering on commitments to not have a duck and quail management plan. That is something that her department had committed to.

Mr Lucas: You will be well known for your advocacy in that area. Your advocacy has been well rewarded.

Mr LEE: Thank you very much, Minister. I will not speak further, purely because it relates to legislation that is on the floor of the parliament. I thank my colleagues for their hard work and I thank the secretariat, but also I want to say to the member for Burnett that I would have thought that we would see more from him by way of substantive criticism. Clearly he thinks we are doing a great job. I know that the minister for the environment will be thrilled when she reads the report of Estimates Committee E.