



Speech by
Judy Spence

MEMBER FOR SUNNYBANK

Hansard Wednesday, 17 June 2009

**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL;
INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT (ASSET RESTRUCTURING AND
DISPOSAL) BILL; FUEL SUBSIDY REPEAL AND REVENUE AND
OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

Declared Urgent; Cognate Debate

Ms SPENCE (Sunnybank—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.20 am), by leave, without notice—I move—

- (1) That, notwithstanding standing order 128(8), the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill and the Appropriation Bill may be brought on for debate tomorrow;
- (2) That, under the provisions of standing order 159, the Infrastructure Investment (Asset Restructuring and Disposal) Bill and the Fuel Subsidy Repeal and Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill be declared urgent bills to enable the bills to be passed through their remaining stages at this week's sitting; and
- (3) That, in accordance with standing order 129, the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill and the Appropriation Bill, having already been treated as cognate bills under the provisions of standing order 166, be also treated as cognate with the Infrastructure Investment (Asset Restructuring and Disposal) Bill and the Fuel Subsidy Repeal and Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill for the second reading debate, but with separate questions being put with regard to:
 - a) the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill and the Appropriation Bill;
 - b) the Infrastructure Investment (Asset Restructuring and Disposal) Bill; and
 - c) the Fuel Subsidy Repeal and Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill.

Mr Speaker, as you can see from the motion that I have moved in the House today, members will have the opportunity of voting separately on the appropriation bills, separately on the fuel subsidy bill and separately on the asset disposal bill. There is much precedent for debating these bills cognately. In fact, I have gone through the records of the last five years at least and have found that it has been quite normal over the last five years for the government to put other bills through the House during budget week. Those other bills have been tax related, and the opposition has supported the passing of those bills and the cognate debate. The motion I have moved in the House this year is no different from the way we have treated Treasury related budget bills in previous years.

It is clear that the government has given a lot of warning of these bills coming before the House. In the Premier's statement 'Renewing Queensland Plan' on 2 June, she announced that it was the government's intention to abolish the fuel subsidy and that it was the government's intention to dispose of certain assets. She clearly outlined on 2 June in that plan how this would come about.

Further, it is integral to the budget that these bills are debated and passed this week. The fuel subsidy repeal and revenue bill is not just about the abolition of the fuel subsidy, although that must commence before 24 June to ensure provisional subsidies for retailers for July 2009 are not paid. Certainly the government has framed its budget around that particular question.

This bill also amends the First Home Owner Grant Act to defer a \$1 million cap and extend the first homeowner grant boost, as it must commence before 1 July 2009 to ensure Queensland complies with its agreements with the Commonwealth. Finally, the payroll tax rebate and land tax surcharge and duties home concession for vacant land to apply for the 2009-10 financial year are also contained in that bill. They are important measures in the fuel subsidy bill which will assist taxpayers and stimulate the economy of Queensland, and these measures must take effect on or before 1 July this year. That is why we want these bills debated and passed this week.

I can assure members of the opposition and Independents that every single individual will have the opportunity on Thursday and Friday to speak in the debate on these bills and further consider these bills. Of course, once these bills are passed and debated they can become the subject of estimates committee questioning. So I am asking all members to support this motion today.