



Speech by

Hon. Kate Jones

MEMBER FOR ASHGROVE

Hansard Thursday, 6 August 2009

APPROPRIATION BILLS: ESTIMATES COMMITTEE E

Hon. KJ JONES (Ashgrove—ALP) (Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability) (12.08 pm): I would like to thank the members of Estimates Committee E for the work they have done with regard to this process, particularly the chair, the member for Bundamba, who I acknowledge has received bipartisan support in the House today and last night for the work she did. I particularly thank the secretariat: Kellie Moule, the research director; Alistair Maclennan; and Narelle Robinson, the executive assistant. I also want to take this opportunity to thank officers of the Department of Environment and Resource Management for all the work they did in preparing for the estimates hearing. As has been acknowledged by the shadow minister, a lot of work goes into an estimates hearing. I thank them for the hard work they did.

Mr Elmes: Hear, hear!

Ms JONES: I take that interjection from the member opposite. I also want to take this opportunity to address some of the statements made by the member for Noosa in his statement of reservation in order to clarify some of the comments he has made. I was very pleased when the estimates hearing started with questions about the ClimateSmart Home Service. To me, this meant that finally the LNP was acknowledging that climate change was real and it had an interest in it. However, that interest only comes from the member for Noosa. I note that neither the member for Southern Downs nor the member for Condamine asked me any questions at all during the hearing. They are well regarded as some of the biggest climate change sceptics in the House. I thank the member for Noosa for his interest and I want to clarify a couple of things.

As members would be aware, it is Local Government Infrastructure Services which is the provider of this service in Queensland. It employs qualified electricians and customer service staff for its service. It is an Australian company with state offices around the country, including in Queensland. As a condition of the contract that it has with the Department of Environment and Resource Management, the contractor is required to abide by the Queensland government's *Local Industry Policy: A Fair Go for Local Industry*. The staff recruitment, competencies and retention plan must set out a clear statement of the contractor's commitment to the local industry policy and an

indication of how local industry participation will be maximised. The service has created Queensland jobs—something that this side of the House understands. Of recent months there have been more than 200 electricians and 50 customer service staff employed across Queensland—a significant green-collar workforce. This is in stark contrast to the opposition, which went to the last election with a policy of cutting around 30 rangers each and every year.

In relation to training, not only did I answer repeated questions about the training program for electricians—which means more jobs for Queenslanders—but I explained in detail that the service had been enhanced by varying the contract conditions. Further, while the time allowed to complete the service has been increased, as referred to by the member for Noosa in his speech last night, as I said at the estimates hearing, this was possible because most clients did not require the 15 light bulbs allocated. Also to answer one of the issues that he raised last night about monitoring carbon emission reductions through this program, I am very happy to inform the member that for every one CFL light bulb installed there is a saving of 66 kilowatt hours per hour and the usage per year is a saving of 68.64 kilograms of greenhouse gas emissions, so you do the maths on that! It is a huge saving. I should also clarify for the House that it is not 26,000 households we are aiming to change over, as the member said last night; it is 260,000, and we will get there, believe you me.

With regard to capital expenditure, an issue the member raised, I am very pleased to repeat what I said in the estimates hearing—that this is as a consequence of our successful acquisition programs for national parks. Under this program, we had allocated \$30 million over three years primarily to acquire land in Springbrook, which I know the LNP member for Mudgeeraba opposes. I am not sure if that is LNP policy generally, but we have fast-tracked our acquisition policy. When it comes to the Ma:Mu rainforest canopy walk, we finished that early as well.

Finally, I turn now to the issue of dingoes on Fraser Island. I note that the opposition clarified during the estimates committee hearing that it walked away from its original policy position of having dingo-feeding stations on the island. In fact, the member for Noosa said, 'It was purely a suggestion. It wasn't a plan. It wasn't a policy; it was a suggestion.' But this followed on from his comments that he had spent a lot of time with the member for Hervey Bay who advocated this policy and that he agreed with him. Finishing on a good note, I want to say that I am happy to work with the member for Noosa and thank him for his comments with regard to the Cooloola recreation area and the RIS. I look forward to working with him in a collaborative fashion.