



Speech by

Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR STAFFORD

Hansard Wednesday, 5 August 2009

APPROPRIATION BILLS: ESTIMATES COMMITTEE C

Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (7.45 pm): Before turning my attention to the report of Estimates Committee C, on this first opportunity to rise in the House since question time this morning, I wish to correct the record. I have now had the chance to see the *Hansard* record. Mr McArdle, the honourable member for Caloundra, asked about not only my last meeting with representatives of a former employer Rainbow Shores but also mentioned all lobbyists of the firm and what was discussed at the meeting. In the hubbub of this morning, I missed the latter part of that question and I want to make sure that there is no misunderstanding that I want to answer these questions fully. For the benefit of the record and for the benefit of the member for Caloundra, I met with Kirby Anderson of the firm CPR with representatives of Baulderstone in relation to infrastructure projects and delivery on 5 May 2009 and again with Mr Anderson and representatives of the Brookfield Multiplex company for an introduction to its new CEO Mr Ross McDiven on 19 June 2009.

Turning to the Estimates Committee C report to the Legislative Assembly, I want to extend my thanks and congratulations to the member for Waterford for the outstanding way that he chaired the public hearing of the committee that I was present for and indeed the other committee members who all contributed in an appropriate and forthright manner. I also want to acknowledge the significant role that the secretariat played in supporting them. While mentioning the secretariat, there is one small downside that I want to acknowledge in addressing some of the issues that have been raised in the honourable member for Gympie's dissenting report of Estimates Committee C to this parliament. He noted concerns about deliberations not being able to be properly done because answers to questions on notice were late. The reality is that the questions on notice were submitted within the required time frames. Unfortunately, problems with the committee secretariat's email system—which were obviously out of my control—caused the delay, and I certainly regret that for the committee's sake.

The member for Gympie also raised concerns in that he thought that all major government plans should be released to estimates committees at the time of the release of the budget papers. Of course there are a range of major government plans and planning documents that are released all of the time in different places and in different circumstances. Indeed, there are a range of regional plans, about which I think he may have been referring to in particular, that are being released and finalised at various stages on the basis of the nature of consultation occurring. He was specifically referring to the fact that SEQIPP 2009-2026 was launched on the same day as the plan and was in fact tabled for the committee's benefit at the hearing. SEQIPP was referenced in the budget at page 12 of Budget Paper No. 3, the Capital Statement. I think it was normal and appropriate practice that SEQIPP be released at the time that it was to ensure that the budget had the appropriate focus on the Renewing Queensland Plan, which was a key issue at the time.

The member for Gympie also raised concerns about the need for the Infrastructure and Planning portfolio to have a greater role. I thank him for his confidence, but I know that the government is working very well with other agencies of government in this space, particularly the new Department of Transport and Main Roads, which provides a much better coordination of management of infrastructure delivery, particularly in those important areas of public transport and road infrastructure. A range of other issues were raised in the committee report. I thank all of the members for their contributions.