



Speech by

**Michael Crandon**

**MEMBER FOR COOMERA**

Hansard Thursday, 5 August 2010

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## **APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL AND APPROPRIATION BILL: ESTIMATES COMMITTEE E**

**Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (2.54 pm): I refer to my recent experience with Estimates Committee E on Tuesday, 20 July chaired by the member for Bundamba. I was granted an opportunity to ask two questions without notice of the Minister for Infrastructure and Planning. In my first question I referred to page 2-74 of the SDS and asked the minister to elaborate on the Premier's press release of 26 May regarding green wedges. After a preamble outlining the background to the press release, I asked the minister—

Can you advise what steps have been taken so far and what further steps will be taken, and when, to ensure adherence to the time frame referred to by the Premier?

A pretty clear question, so now for the answer. The minister said—

I thank Mr Crandon for his joining the committee and asking his question, obviously focused in an area that he has a keen interest in.

So far so good. The minister went on—

As has been outlined, part of the response to the Growth Management Summit saw the state government announcing that by mid-2011 a new 10-year strategy would be developed to ensure that green lands on the Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast would remain green and would be used for a range of purposes, including agriculture, green space and outdoor recreation.

As a preamble this is okay, but I am looking for the answer to my question. What I got was a rehash of the Premier's press release. The minister went on—

This will ensure that large parts of those green wedges are accessible to people ... This includes interurban breaks ...

Virtually word for word from the Premier's press release. But I did not need the press release re-read to me; I needed answers for the people through the canelands as to what the process was going to be. Here we are 10 weeks down the track from when the press release was made and what has been done? As far as the people of the canelands are concerned, nothing! They know nothing about the process the minister is going to take to develop the strategy by mid-2011. Then the minister said this—

Prior to any commencement of land acquisition the Department of Infrastructure and Planning will engage with local community groups, landholders and local councils to find and develop these areas into accessible green assets for all Queenslanders.

Finally, we are on our way to an answer. I wait for the outline of the detail that has been alluded to. But, no, back to the press release—

That will help deliver the Toward Q2 target ...

The minister went on until the time finally ran out. So I asked for permission to ask a supplementary question. In my second question, among other things, I made the point that the Premier's statement clearly put a time line of mid-2011 for the new 10-year plan to be in place. I said that landholders had seen a glimmer of hope from this statement made almost two months ago. I said—

Minister, in the statement you say that you want to engage with local community groups, landholders and local councils. Here we are two months down the track and nothing has been started. Can the minister give a commitment that a time line for the necessary steps to have the strategy in place by mid-2011 has been budgeted for and will be advised to the people of the canelands forthwith?

The minister said—

... I will respond to Mr Crandon's question. I think it is a fair question to get clarified.

He said—

As the Premier made the commitment that there will be a 10-year strategy in place by mid-2011, doing the work of engaging with the community over this next 12 months is vitally important to inform that strategy.

...

I am not going to anticipate things ...

...

Certainly I can confirm that we have a work plan in place in relation to the actions arising out of the Growth Management Summit in order to deliver on those actions, including the establishment of a 10-year strategy by mid-2011.

**Mr Hinchliffe:** So how was the briefing today?

**Mr CRANDON:** He continued—

That will involve engagement with landowners, engagement with the community and engagement with councils in those relevant areas.

That is what he said in answer to my first question, and that is what the press release said. At the beginning of his answer to my second question he acknowledged that he thought it was a fair question to get clarified. Did he clarify it? No. Was he out of time? No.

**Mr Hinchliffe:** And how was the briefing today?

**Mr CRANDON:** He had ample time but said he was going to provide feedback about a question that was taken on notice earlier. The bottom line is that the people of the canelands are no further informed as to the process that will be undertaken, and here we are more than two months down the track. In essence, the people of the canelands are being treated like mushrooms. In answer to the minister's question, today had to be deferred because I had a commitment in here in relation to Estimates Committee D.