



Speech by

## Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

Hansard Wednesday, 31 October 2012

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### APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL AND APPROPRIATION BILL: FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (4.30 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Finance and Administration Committee report and the bill before the House. It was a pleasure to attend the estimates hearing as Assistant Minister for Finance, Administration and Regulatory Reform alongside the honourable the Treasurer on 9 October. It was a pleasure also to hear and see how the chairman of the committee, Michael Crandon, the member for Coomera, handled himself and the committee. The way the estimates process was run was an absolute credit to him and his committee. This was my first experience of estimates and it was a very well-run committee. I would also like to commend the Premier for how he handled himself throughout the estimates committee hearing. I was able to sit in for some time during his session, and he handled himself very well. I also commend the Treasurer for how well he handled all of the questions. He was able to answer every question that was put to him and to his staff as well.

The difference between the current government and the previous government and how they handled the estimates committee hearing is extremely clear. The Treasurer was able to outline what we have, and that is a plan. He was able to outline the once-in-a-generation budget in relation to the core set of fiscal principles that the Treasurer clearly outlined. Throughout the process the Treasurer was able to note that the fiscal repair tasks that were set about by all of the departments have resulted in reduced borrowings. The improvement in the government's fiscal balance will result in interest cost savings of over \$1.3 billion over the forward estimates. This means a lot for the state of Queensland and for the people of Queensland because these savings can go into the most needed front-line services such as new hospitals, police stations, ambulances or maybe a dual carriageway for the Bruce Highway—

**Mr Johnson:** Country roads.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:**—and country roads, which are very important in the Nanango electorate. It is very pleasing to see the amount of money that is being allocated to country roads within this budget. It is very important and it is very good to see.

I think some of the statements made by the opposition in relation to this committee need to be corrected. The amount of time that the opposition was given on this committee to have their questions answered amounted to some 55 per cent. The last time I counted, there was a very small opposition compared to the government, and I would consider that time allocated to be five per cent over and above the time that they possibly should have been allocated.

I would also like to strongly dispute the statement of reservation in the committee's report. I could easily go through it, but time precludes me because I would have to go through each line as clearly every statement is quite wrong. I really do not have the time. However, I would like to put on the record the fact that I completely disagree with this statement of reservation.

This is a once-in-a-generation budget and for the people of the Nanango electorate it is a very important one. I have been out and about in my electorate. The feedback I am getting is that the decisions that this government has had to make because of the debt that the previous Labor government left us with

are hard decisions but they are ones that are very much supported within my electorate. The Treasurer came and spoke at a dinner a couple of weeks ago and the feedback was extremely positive. The benefit that this budget will bring in future years is of extreme importance to my electorate.

With the remaining time I would like to touch on the importance of the Office of Best Practice Regulation that has also been set up, which will work towards reducing red tape and regulation by at least 20 per cent.