




Speech by

Hon. Fiona Simpson

MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE

Hansard Wednesday, 31 October 2012

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL AND APPROPRIATION BILL: COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

 **Madam SPEAKER** (3.31 pm): The House will consider the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill first and then the Appropriation Bill. The question is—

That the report of the Committee of the Legislative Assembly be adopted.

As the chair of the Committee of the Legislative Assembly, I have been asked by committee members to speak in relation to the committee's report of its examination of the budget estimates of the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill for the 2012-13 financial year. This is the first year that the Committee of the Legislative Assembly has conducted the estimates process with respect to the parliamentary appropriations.

The committee has administrative functions under sections 5 and 6 of the Parliamentary Service Act 1988, which include deciding policies about parliamentary accommodation and services and deciding major policies to guide the operation and management of the Parliamentary Service.

In recognition of the committee's statutory role as a board of management for the Parliamentary Service, the examination of the areas that fall under the responsibility of the committee took place through an open and public meeting process. Under new standing order 181A, the stakeholders, who are the members of parliament, were invited to attend a public meeting on 9 October 2012 and ask the committee questions relevant to the parliamentary appropriations. The Clerk of the Parliament was also available to take questions in accordance with that standing order as the CEO and employing authority of the service's staff.

Members' questions at the public meeting covered a wide range of matters—from accommodation in the parliamentary precinct through to cost of signage for members' electorate offices—as detailed in the committee's report tabled on 29 October. In regard to my own responsibilities as Speaker, I was particularly pleased to receive questions regarding two matters in which I have taken a keen interest. Firstly, the question regarding the ways that the parliament has honoured and is planning to honour the service of Queensland's first Indigenous member of parliament, Mr Eric Deeral, gave me an opportunity to outline the important steps the parliament has taken. These included renaming the Indigenous Youth Parliament in his honour, making a short documentary about him and the condolence motion, which is scheduled for tomorrow. Secondly, the question regarding safety and evacuation procedures in the parliamentary precinct gave me an opportunity to expand on the important steps that have been taken in this area in the 54th Parliament and to flag the upcoming reviews being conducted in relation to the security on the precinct.

In conclusion, I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the valuable assistance provided to the committee by the Clerk and other parliamentary staff and to thank the members of the committee for their contributions throughout the year.