



Speech by

Freya Ostapovitch

MEMBER FOR STRETTON

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

Mrs OSTAPOVITCH (Stretton—LNP) (4.06 pm): I feel very privileged to be part of the Finance and Administration Committee. I would like to praise all my colleagues and the hardworking staff who support us. The people of Stretton would be very interested in what we discussed in the budget estimates because they actually understand budgets. They understand how to be fiscally responsible. They understand that we cannot keep borrowing and cannot keep buying things that we do not have money for and that at some point we have to pay the credit card.

They might be interested to know about the role of the committee. The Finance and Administration Committee's areas of responsibility are the Premier and the Cabinet and Treasury and Trade. The committee also has oversight functions in relation to the Auditor-General and the Integrity Commissioner.

On 1 September 2012 the Appropriation Bill 2012 and the estimates for the committee's areas of responsibility were referred to the committee for investigation and report. On 9 October 2012 the committee conducted a public hearing and took evidence about the proposed expenditure from the Premier, the Treasurer and Minister for Trade and other witnesses.

I will point out some of the highlights with regard to Queensland Treasury and Trade. We are establishing and pursuing a fiscal strategy for returning the state budget to fiscal balance by 2014-15 and responding to the Commission of Audit's recommendations. We have established Projects Queensland to deliver value for money from state infrastructure projects and are focused on service delivery to encourage private investment in Queensland infrastructure. We have established an Office of Best Practice Regulation to cut red tape and regulation by 20 per cent. We have monitored the government's investment in government own corporations to deliver competitive, cost-effective and timely infrastructure and services. We have provided economic and statistical information services and products that contribute rigorous evidence in support of government programs.

With regard to the budget highlights of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, some of those highlights include: working with other government departments to coordinate assistance to the Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry; working with other government departments to remove barriers to homeownership for Indigenous Queenslanders living on communal land; coordinating the implementation of recommendations from the Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry and the government's formal response to the final report; providing input to the state's delivery of urban water reforms to deliver lower water prices; assisting the government to deliver on its key projects, including the CBD government administrative precinct; developing and leading, together with Queensland Treasury and Trade, cross-government initiatives to deliver the government's commitment to getting business conditions right and to reduce red tape and regulatory burden by 20 per cent; improving accessibility and availability of information on the operation of fundamental legislative principles in legislation by publishing an FLP handbook; and, lastly, continuing the e-legislation project, which includes the authorised electronic legislation and the electronic publishing of pre-1991 legislation as made.

As I said before, it has been a great privilege to be part of this Appropriation Bill. The objectives outlined in the 2012-13 budget include to strengthen and support a high-performing Public Service workforce within a contemporary legislative and policy framework and promoting high standards of integrity and conduct in the public sector. I am very pleased to have been able to speak to this Appropriation Bill.