




Speech by
John Grant

MEMBER FOR SPRINGWOOD

Hansard Wednesday, 31 October 2012

**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL AND APPROPRIATION BILL:
TRANSPORT, HOUSING AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE**

 **Mr GRANT** (Springwood—LNP) (11.19 pm): I would like to speak briefly regarding the budget estimates hearings for the Transport, Housing and Local Government Committee. Before I speak on the areas of responsibility, I would like to inform the House that I have heard a lot of bleating today that this budget is one that has been put forward by ideologically driven thinking and is non-evidence based. My response is this: you had better believe that it is ideologically driven and you had better believe that we have taken into account evidence based considerations. I would like to suggest that every budget the Labor Party brought down was an ideologically driven budget. I am very happy to put our ideologies in fiscal responsibility up against their ideologies every day of the week, every week of the year, and every year over the last 50 years. The Labor Party ideology has driven the state to the position that it is in now. Their ideology was this: keep putting on more staff so they could boast about creating jobs, keep borrowing so they could pay the staff they had just put on and then so cruelly—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Berry): Order! There is far too much audible noise. There has been a fair bit of latitude, but I want to be able to hear the member for Springwood.

Mr GRANT: And then they so cruelly wrote to so many of their staff who they claimed they cared for to ask who was willing to take a redundancy package. This is the ideology that drove their budgets in years gone by, and this is an ideology that saw the debt keep climbing and climbing and climbing. It has had its casualties.

I would like to speak briefly on the three different areas of responsibility. The budget for Transport and Main Roads was \$7 billion, and I would like to point out that the benefits of those dollars are spread around the state. Indeed the members of my electorate will receive their share of the benefits. In particular, I would like to draw attention to the fact that we are gaining an extra lane on the M1 Motorway. I would also like to highlight the removal of the T2 lanes on the M1 Motorway and the benefits that will bring. I would like to re-emphasise the fact that we have frozen car registration fees for three years and we have reduced the public transport fare increases that were going to be handed out.

I come to the area of the Department of Housing and Public Works, and what a huge portfolio that is. Minister Flegg had his officers and his staff from the various agencies at the hearing. It is unbelievable how much responsibility this minister carries. He covers the areas of housing services, building or construction services, and procurement services with a budget vote of \$647,384,000. The LNP's focus and the minister's focus in this portfolio is to stop the bleeding and the losses of the millions of dollars that are projected under the philosophy of the previous Labor governments through their mismanagement of a huge housing stock. We want to carry out major reform in this housing sector by the provision of redeveloped homes and delivering better special services to tenants, especially to those in the high needs categories.

Moving to the area of financial support for our schools, I can say that I have moved around the schools in my electorate and found that in the first year of LNP funding allocations some schools have received double what they received last year to maintain their school buildings, while others have received four times as much. It is no wonder the school teachers have voted in favour of the EB offerings that we put on the table.

I move now to Local Government, which has a budget vote of \$448,461,000. This department has responsibility for implementing the first round of a funding program worth \$40 million over three years to assist local governments meet the recommendations of the Queensland floods commission. Local governments over the last years have been rocked to the core by the Labor tactics and strategies and the massive on-again, off-again restructuring, the forced removal of water and then the rolling over and giving back of water to them. They do not know whether they are Arthur or Martha the way they were treated by the previous Labor government, but we wish to work in cooperation with local government. I would like to support the recommendations in the report.