



Speech by

Michael Hart

MEMBER FOR BURLEIGH

Hansard Wednesday, 31 October 2012

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL AND APPROPRIATION BILL: STATE DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE AND INDUSTRY COMMITTEE

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (4.51 pm): It gives me a great deal of pleasure to rise to speak in support of the estimates committee for the State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee, especially after that five minutes of drivel that has just come from the Leader of the Opposition. The Leader of the Opposition had five minutes to tell us about her experience at our estimates committee. What did we get? We got one particular subject that she just waffled on and on about. I start by thanking the chair of our committee, the member for Mirani, for the way he showed the new members of our committee exactly how a committee works and for leading us through this process. I also want to thank the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and member for Mackay, the member for Mount Isa, the member for Keppel, the member for Pine Rivers, the member for Sandgate and the member for Redcliffe for their assistance with the committee. It is also important to point out that we have wonderful staff on our committee ably led by Kathy Munro, the research director. Margaret and Rhia are also a very valuable part of our team.

During the estimates committee hearing we heard from the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and member for Callide, the Minister for Energy and Water Supply and member for Caloundra, and the Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games and member for Currumbin. What did we hear from those ministers? We heard that Queensland is now open for business, and that is echoing everywhere I go in my electorate of Burleigh. Whether I go to a chamber of commerce meeting or just walk down the street or visit schools, I am getting distinct feedback from the people of Burleigh that they are aware that Queensland is open for business, they are enthusiastic and they are looking forward to the future. Why are the people of Burleigh excited about the future?

Mr Malone: Are they?

Mr HART: They are very excited, and that is because they have a progressive and new government. On 24 March they were absolutely sick of the last government—the last government that led them into a massive amount of debt, a debt that we have heard again this morning was fast approaching \$100 billion. One only has to look at the amount of interest that that money takes away from this state. How many policemen, how many doctors and how many nurses could we be spending that money on instead of wasting it on paying extra interest? We heard that the Deputy Premier is looking at the Sustainable Planning Act, and there is quite a bit of excitement on the Gold Coast about that. Obviously the Gold Coast is the home of development in Queensland and we have not seen a crane on the skyline for the past year. I can tell members that I look forward to seeing those cranes and seeing the end of the procession of utes heading out to Ipswich every morning from the Gold Coast.

Mr Choat interjected.

Mr HART: I understand that the members for Ipswich West and Ipswich will not be real happy about that, but we would like to keep those people on the Gold Coast. So the Deputy Premier is looking to fast-

track major projects. The committee also heard from the Minister for Energy and Water Supply. Two of the issues that greatly impact on the cost of living are the price of water and the price of electricity and of course the minister is moving quickly to allay the fears of many Queenslanders to do what he can to minimise those costs. The other issue that is very important to the Gold Coast is tourism, so I have had a perfect outcome with this estimates committee with development, tourism and the cost of living. That is exactly what this committee has investigated. We look forward, as the Minister for Tourism said, to more flights coming into the Gold Coast. We are already seeing them come into Cairns from China and other places around the world, and we look forward to changes being made in that area so that more tourists come to the Gold Coast.