




Speech By  
**Hon. Fiona Simpson**

**MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE**

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**APPROPRIATION BILLS: COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

 **Madam SPEAKER:** 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.

I will take the call as Speaker and Chair of the Committee of the Legislative Assembly. As chair of the Committee of the Legislative Assembly, I will make a few comments on behalf of committee members in relation to the committee's report of its examination of the budget estimates contained in the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill for the 2013-14 financial year.

I note that this week marks 145 years since the parliament met for the first time in this building. Much has changed since then. In 1868 Federation had not yet occurred and Queensland was a colony with two houses of parliament. However, reading the *Hansard* of that day, much is familiar to us. For instance, members shared the space with tradesmen, the *Brisbane Courier* reported on the parliament and some members thought too much was spent on the building. The words said by the Acting Governor of the day, His Excellency Maurice Charles O'Connell, are as pertinent today as they were then. He said, 'The progress of events once again demand your watchful care.'

Regardless of political affiliation, I am sure that all members in the 54th Parliament go about their business within this precinct mindful of their care of the state as they seek to represent their constituents. In this we are supported by the many excellent staff the Parliamentary Service has from the chamber services to committee staff, finance and administration personnel, function staff and many others. The role of the non-political staff of the parliament who ensure the smooth operation and the institutional integrity of the parliament is vital to allow the Legislative Assembly to function. I speak on behalf of the Committee of the Legislative Assembly and on behalf of each member of parliament when I express my sincere appreciation for the valuable assistance provided by each and every staff member.

In conclusion, I would also like to thank the members of the committee for their contributions throughout the year as we work together for the good of the parliament.