




Speech By
Hon. David Crisafulli

MEMBER FOR MUNDINGBURRA

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APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL

Transport, Housing and Local Government Committee, Report

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Mundingburra—LNP) (Minister for Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience) (4.31 pm): I am delighted to make a contribution. I should start by placing on record my deep thanks to everyone involved in the process, and that includes the departmental staff, my ministerial staff, the committee, the chairman and all of the parliamentary staff. I commend all members on the committee for the manner in which they conducted themselves during the debate—and I mean all members. I include the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. The debate was certainly done in an intense manner, but it was done in a very fair manner.

I contrast that with the behaviour that I have seen in the last half an hour from the member for Bundamba which, quite frankly, has been a disgrace. She has done no service to herself or this parliament. To come in and screech and yell at people—

Mrs Miller: Who are you to talk?

Madam SPEAKER: Pause the clock. I am sorry to interrupt you, Minister, but the interjections from my left and specifically from the member for Bundamba are loud and intrusive and I ask you to cease.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I applaud all members of the committee. The hearing was held in an excellent manner. Nobody wins when you have people screeching like parrots. It is disrespectful to the entire parliament.

This was my third estimates hearing. Again, the recurring theme, for the third year, seemed to be around the finances of the Brisbane City Council—the council in Queensland with a strong financial rating and a neutral outlook. As I repeated, I only wish that all other 76 councils in the state were in a similar financial position. For some reason it is the one that seems to attract the attention of the opposition year after year.

I spoke to the committee in two parts. One was about the achievements in local government and the other on the Reconstruction Authority. In terms of local government, there have been sweeping changes to the act. We have put mayors and councillors in charge. We certainly spoke in depth about my visits to the regions and empowering councils. We spoke about the deferrals being down and delivering on the ground.

I was very upfront with councils. From the start I said that this was going to be the year of delivery and that those councils that were not able to deliver should not have applied for funding. I am very firm on that, because no resident benefits from a dream, a project that is planned and sits on a shelf. People benefit only when it gets delivered. That is why I was very firm that this year would be the year of delivery. There was a big turnaround and I give credit to all councils.

Following a question from the member for Nudgee, I also spoke about fitness equipment and our desire to increase people's activity. If I can just digress for one second: today I read with aghast an online *Courier-Mail* article about that fast food giant McDonald's desire to push home deliveries into the Hervey Bay area. The article goes on to talk about the fact that it is a region that has been identified as having some problems on the health front. Quite frankly, at a time when we want to get people into using their local council parks, which was a big theme of this estimates hearing, that is a deadset disgrace from McDonald's. I understand absolutely that companies have a right to market as they choose. But they have said clearly that this is a trial and that they have chosen the Hervey Bay region. I call on the residents of Hervey Bay to give this proposal the cold shoulder. It is not right.

Surely, it is not too much to ask somebody to leave their home if they seek to get fast food. In an era where councils and the state government are doing all in their power to get people to leave their homes and go into the community and take advantage of all that is beautiful about living in Queensland, I wonder when McDonald's will stop its push to try to get people to stuff their mouths on a regular basis with their greasy food. So I say to the residents of Hervey Bay: please treat this proposal the way it should be treated and that is to ignore this with every ounce of their energy.

In the time that I have left, I want to talk about the Reconstruction Authority. We have unashamedly put people on the ground. We have unashamedly got to work. We have turned around the turnaround times on delivery. We have spun them around by putting local people back in charge. I want to commend everybody involved in the Reconstruction Authority. They have done a magnificent job. I commend the chief executive officer, Mr Graeme Newton, for his tenure and the excellent job that he has done. I commend the councils for embracing the new opportunities that have come with working with us rather than against us. In conclusion, I thank everyone who is involved as we have empowered local government on a journey over the course of the last few years.