




Speech By
Michael Crandon

MEMBER FOR COOMERA

Record of Proceedings, 6 August 2014

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL

State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee, Report

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (4.31 pm): It is my pleasure to rise to discuss the budget estimates for 2014-15. Report No. 45 of the State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee provides me with some information that I would like to allude to. First of all, the responsibility of our committee is one where we oversee, if you like, the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and the Minister for Energy and Water Supply. In my view, those two areas, taken in their essence, are probably the most important areas for the people of Queensland. On the one hand, we are talking about the development of infrastructure and planning for the people of Queensland and how important that is with the growth that we are experiencing.

If I can reflect on the growth in Queensland, I absolutely have to reflect on the growth in the Coomera electorate—the massive growth that is occurring in the middle of the electorate, keeping in mind that as part of that infrastructure we are putting in place a brand-new primary school in the Pimpama area. That school will be No. 6 of seven new schools built in a six-year period in a 10-kilometre strip of the M1 in the Coomera electorate. Nowhere else in the state can we find seven new schools in such a small area. That is the type of development we are talking about.

I wish to reflect on the importance of the Deputy Premier, who is open to listening to the issues of individual members when they bring them to him. I have spoken many times to the Deputy Premier about the roadblocks to economic development for the state seat of Coomera. Those roadblocks—and I know members have heard this from me many times before—surround exit 54 and the Coomera River. They are the two main areas of roadblocks, and those roadblocks are being cleared as we speak because of the responsible way in which the Deputy Premier is managing his portfolio.

We are also in the middle of doing a review of the South East Queensland Regional Plan, and a very important part of that South East Queensland Regional Plan is what is going to be the future of the cane lands. What are the options for the cane lands in the decade ahead and in the next two or three decades ahead? We know that there will come a time when it is uneconomical to continue to grow sugarcane in that particular area. So we have to plan ahead. Once again, the strength of the Deputy Premier as the Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning is that he does look well into the future. He does not look at the next election. He does not look at what the electorate might be thinking about in the next five minutes. He is worried about this state for the next five years, 10 years, 15 years, 20 years and way into the future.

On the other side of the coin, I need to allude to how important the Minister for Energy and Water Supply and his portfolio is to the people of Queensland. Why? Because of the cost-of-living pressures that we are all under. When people think about cost-of-living pressures, they do not necessarily think about the cost of their registration going up incrementally and what have you. What

do they think about? They think about their water bill. They think about their electricity bill. They are the first two things that come to people's minds—their water bill and their electricity bill. This minister is working hard to ensure that we minimise the increase in the cost of those things to the people of Queensland, ensuring that the people of Queensland do have a happier future as a result of his efforts and those of his department and certainly the tough decisions that he has been making over recent times.

We are moving towards market monitoring for South-East Queensland retail electricity from 1 July 2015. We have had meetings again today with various players in the area. The intent of that is to keep down, force down, hold down electricity prices for the people of Queensland. That is the cornerstone of this government. It is keen to ensure that we have a future and future development of the state but that we also have a state where people can afford—

(Time expired)