




Speech By
Craig Crawford

MEMBER FOR BARRON RIVER

Record of Proceedings, 15 September 2015

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL

Finance and Administration Committee, Report

 **Mr CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (3.16 pm): I rise today to speak to the appropriations for the Premier and Treasurer, as we have seen outlined by my colleagues before me. It is with great pleasure that I sit on the Finance and Administration Committee, and I took great pleasure in kicking off the estimates for 2015 on the first day. I congratulate my colleagues on both sides of the House, particularly the chair, the member for Bulimba, and the committee members who worked with us.

I am a bit confused as to whether we were all in the same hearings. What I heard and what I saw was a Premier and a Treasurer who clearly understood their portfolios, who had a very good grasp of their responsibilities and who were able to articulate that themselves and also through the representatives they brought to the table at estimates to speak on that particular day. What we saw was a 15-minute battle, I guess. We had 15 minutes of questions from government members which asked about the Appropriation Bill, estimates, the budget and things in relation to dollars and the like. Then when the ball was in the other court we had questions about the police minister and questions about other ministers. They were questions that I felt were totally unrelated to what we were there for. As a committee, our responsibility was to interview the respective ministers and to gain a perspective from them as to what their knowledge of their portfolio was and the expenditure that went with it.

I was a bit disappointed to see what was coming from the other side. I have heard all the arguments that we just had about there not being enough time and that they were mistreated and words to that effect. I think the chair mentioned this before, but we had a meeting of the Finance and Administration Committee on 17 July. It was unanimously agreed—all six people, three from each side—that the hearing time would run for the time frame that it did on that day.

Mr Crandon: Following the moving and defeat of two motions.

Mr CRAWFORD: To me, that is a democracy. That was not us overruling them. We have three on each side.

Mr Crandon: I am sorry? You don't remember the motion being moved and being defeated?

Mr CRAWFORD: I hear the member for Coomera, but I do disagree with his comments. However, I welcome his statement that he is going to champion it for next year. I am happy to have those conversations with him. One recommendation I would make is that, if we are going to have more time next year in estimates, perhaps members from the other side could use that time effectively to talk about issues in relation to the appropriations. We have 12 months for them to prepare and learn what exactly that means because what I saw was everything but.

The other thing I noted was that out of the three opposition members on the Finance and Administration Committee I only heard one question asked from those three members. All of the other

questions were asked by other members and I thought that that was a bit disappointing because we are a good team and we do work well together and I think that some of those questions could have come from those members.

Opposition members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Grace): Order, members! The member for Barron River has the—

Opposition members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Opposition members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I am about to warn members. Order, please! The member for Barron River has the call.

Mr CRAWFORD: In summary, I want to make particular mention of the Treasurer, a good friend of mine and colleague from the Far North. I was very impressed to see his articulate and measured responses when he provided answers, particularly answers to questions from the other side. I thought that the answers the Treasurer provided were bang on the mark with the questions that were asked and with what I wanted to hear as a member of this committee. I commend him for his budget and commend him for the way that he acted on the day as well as the Premier.