



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Bailey**


**MEMBER FOR YEERONGPILLY**

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Record of Proceedings, 15 September 2015

**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL**

**Utilities, Science and Innovation Committee, Report**

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy and Water Supply) (11.52 pm): Obviously there are a lot of reforms happening in my portfolio, and certainly the major ones are the fact that we have kept our assets in public hands such as our ports and our energy corporations. We are proceeding with our commitment on ethanol. We are implementing our road safety plan and our strategy—something that the previous government had no strategy on once the one ran out in 2012. We are proceeding down the renewable energies area. We are creating jobs that are the new jobs of the future. There is a massive injection into infrastructure. There is the western roads package. There is the TIDS program. There are marine infrastructure commitments. There is our protection of the reef. There is our fair price for solar review and we have nearly 15,000 jobs across TMR. It is a very active portfolio and a very active area in delivering our election commitments through this budget. It is a very strong budget from the Treasurer. It is a jobs budget that is creating jobs right across this state. It is always a bit rich being lectured by the opposition when it comes to either unemployment or democracy. Of course we saw unemployment surge under the opposition over the last three years and it is up to this government to restore confidence in this state. That is what we have seen through various job surveys. We are seeing confidence return and we are seeing jobs return.

I want to take the opportunity to thank the committee for its efforts and all of the staff involved. I congratulate the member for Kallangur for his work as chair of the committee and all staff involved. In response to a number of the issues raised here from members of the opposition, what a precious performance and how fragile they are. Those opposite are a divided opposition devoid of policy. What we had was a two-page whinge—not in fact a statement at all—and now we have had five-minute whinges with no policy and no suggestions whatsoever. The member for Indooroopilly continues to try to distort the SDS with regard to the road toll. I can report to the chamber that the road toll is tracking at the moment two above last year's at 162 and I am hopeful that we can get that down further, but we are serious about our road safety reforms. He attempts to distort that when the relativities in the SDS reflected his SDS the year before where we look at the long-term trend in terms of road safety, because it is a jagged path downwards. His attempt to say that we tolerate fatalities, to be quite frank, is extraordinarily base to be generous.

It was fantastic to see the member for Whitsunday make a contribution to the debate today. I did not hear a word from him during my sessions at the estimates hearing at all. They obviously had gagged him and would not allow him to speak for some reason, but it was lovely to hear from him. I love delivering the Vines Creek bridges. Those opposite had three years to do it. They had three years and they were going to do it but they just never quite got there, did they? They had three years to do it. They had three years to do the Mooloolah interchange—three years! Did they get it done? No, they did not.

Then we had the contribution of the member for Southport, who still seems confused today. I thought the matter was cleared up at the committee. He was finding it hard to work out how to create jobs in renewable energy in the year 2015. Well, we have 448,000 houses with solar PV and a battery revolution coming along and he seems to think that battery installation will happen sort of by magic—by someone clicking their fingers—and there will not be Queensland workers installing them. He made an astonishing contribution, especially given our commitments on large scale solar through our reverse auction where we will exceed our election commitment by 50 per cent. There will be 60 megawatts of large scale solar in this state when those opposite lost 1,300 jobs over the last three years. That is their record. We will get large scale solar going. We will also bring in 150 megawatts of renewable energy through Ergon's expression of interest. The fact that the opposition thinks there are no jobs in renewable energy just shows what century they are living in, and it is certainly not the century that we are living in. In terms of Energex and Ergon, the member for Glass House asked lots of questions but not many of me, I might add. He asked very few of me—I think 11 out of 61—but he did not get the answers that he wanted. Energex and Ergon stated themselves that their projections over the next four years would see prices below CPI. He did not get the answers that he wanted and came into this place to have a moan. This is a strong budget. I commend the estimates process and the budget to the House.