




Speech By
Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

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APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL

Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, Report

 **Mr RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (5.38 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate in relation to report No. 7 of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee and the committee's examination of the budget expenditure for the 2015-16 financial year in respect of the portfolio areas of the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills, and the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services. I start by thanking the Attorney, the minister, their respective staff, the departmental staff and services staff, parliamentary staff, Hansard and, of course, the committee secretariat for their contributions to this year's estimates process.

It must be a very good budget because for five minutes we heard the member for Kawana talk about anything other than the budget—about any other concerns that he had. He did not raise anything about the budget. But we have also heard members of the opposition speak all afternoon about the problems they perceive with the estimates processes—timing issues, whether their questions were in order or out of order and perceived unfairness. If that is the only thing they have to talk about, it must be a pretty good budget.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr RYAN: Well, if they had problems with the budget, surely they should have been talking about it. Rather than do that, they want to talk about the process. Incidentally, the process that they are criticising is not only the process that Newman wrecked when he was premier but also the process that the former premier said he was going to restore after they got thrashed in the Stafford by-election. If the process is so bad, why was it going to be restored and why was it wrecked in the first place by the previous government?

Members of the opposition have failed to realise a very important thing about the estimates process. It is not that it is the government's estimates process. It is not that it is the opposition's estimates process. This is a process for the people of Queensland to have proper scrutiny of government expenditure—of their money, of taxpayers' money. For me to experience today the diatribe from members about the process, for me to experience them not really giving a genuine contribution at all about the budget, for me to experience the estimates process itself where members of the opposition wanted to play silly games about matters irrelevant to the consideration of government expenditure when they wanted to ask questions that they knew were deliberately out of order and were inconsistent with the standing orders and when they wanted to move silly motions that were, again, entirely irrelevant to the estimates process—I feel that they are failing the people of Queensland. They do not serve the interests of the people of Queensland by wasting the time allocated during the estimates process by moving frivolous and irrelevant motions and asking questions that were out of order.

Just imagine for a moment that the opposition actually made a positive contribution during the estimates process and, rather than moving those frivolous and irrelevant motions or asking questions that were out of order, they properly considered the budget and government expenditure.

Mr Rickuss: Don't you support the budget? You won't talk much about it.

Mr RYAN: I take the interjection from the member for Lockyer because it gives me the opportunity to talk about this excellent budget and the great initiatives in the portfolio areas that were considered by the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee. I am happy to talk about the restoration of funding for the Murri Court and drug diversion programs—programs cut by the Newman government but restored by this government. I am happy to talk about the action being taken on domestic violence. There are some wonderful initiatives funded in this budget, and of course the Premier and other ministers have spoken about other programs to be funded moving forward.

I am happy to talk about the restoration of funding for youth justice programs and correcting the debacle that happened under the member for Kawana's watch as the former attorney-general. And wasn't that a debacle! I was pleased that the Attorney was able to provide some further information at estimates following the release of the KPMG report into the debacle that the member for Kawana contributed to as the former attorney-general and the mess that he made. I was very interested to hear as well that on the occasions that departmental representatives and the Attorney attended the Lincoln Springs boot camp they did not fly by helicopter, wasting \$12,000 of taxpayers' money like the former attorney did; they drove. This is a great budget, particularly in the areas of legal affairs and community safety, and I urge all members to support it.

(Time expired)