



Speech By  
**Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe**


**MEMBER FOR SANDGATE**

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Record of Proceedings, 15 September 2015

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

**Finance and Administration Committee, Report**

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (3.34 pm): As we have heard, obviously, the Finance and Administration Committee has tabled its report on the consideration of the 2015-16 portfolio budget estimates for the portfolio of the Premier and Minister for the Arts and the Treasurer's portfolio areas. I would like to thank the committee and its chair, the member for Bulimba, for their work in producing a very comprehensive report and for recommending that the government's proposed appropriations in this area be agreed to.

I had the pleasure of attending the estimates hearing in relation to the Premier's portfolio areas. I was there waiting, availing myself of the opportunity to be asked questions but, understandably, the members of the committee were starstruck by the Premier and wanted to hear more from her. I can understand that.

**A government member:** But you could have handled yourself.

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** I could have handled myself, but I enjoyed it. I had a great time hearing the Premier's answers and, indeed, the answers of a range of CEOs and the director-general who had questions directed to them at different times. It was a great example of the success of the estimates committee hearing process that allows that transparency and cross-examination of the detail of the budget. That is why I was a little bit disappointed that we really did not get the extensive cross-examination of the portfolio areas that should have been appropriate especially, I might say, from a group of people that included the Leader of the Opposition, who was leading the charge in that portfolio area, at least for the morning session, who only a few months before was a minister in a government. One would have thought that the Leader of the Opposition would have had a better understanding of the issues that should have been brought up. Instead, we heard continual politically driven, politically motivated lines of questioning that had nothing to do with the details, strengths and, indeed, potential weaknesses of the 2015-16 budget. No, it was the same sort of claptrap that we hear peddled in here from time to time in the form of some pretty spurious questions.

The opposition's line of questions were not on the task, were not about the estimates before the parliament. The members opposite failed to take the opportunity in the full glare of all of the cleansing sunlight that comes with media scrutiny that this estimates process for 2015-16 provides, unlike the process that we had seen in the past where the former government scrunched and crunched the whole estimates process into a couple of days so that it could keep everyone else on their feet hopping around unable to get into the detail of anything. But what did we see?

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** I hear these suggestions that there was less time. There was less time, but more considerably more questions from the opposition were asked during this process than occurred during the former process. That shows that this process has stood up to the test and returned the estimates process to the traditions that were established in a modern, post-Fitzgerald Queensland. I hear some suggestions around the place that some people do not like that phrase. They do not like to hear that term. One would almost think they do not like to hear the name 'Fitzgerald' almost as much as they do not like to hear the name 'Newman'.

I encourage the whole of this House to support this committee's recommendation to this parliament to endorse the appropriations for the Premier's portfolio and the Treasurer's portfolio. I commend the report to the House.