




Speech By
Lachlan Millar

MEMBER FOR GREGORY

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APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (2.46 pm): I would also like to pay tribute to the Finance and Administration Committee. As a relatively new member of the committee, I have been welcomed with open arms. I am absolutely in awe of the staff, led by our research director, and their ability to put issues together for us in a timely manner. They work so hard and they work so diligently. I would like to thank the chair, the member for Sunnybank, and the deputy chair, the member for Mermaid Beach. I also thank the member for Bundamba, the member for Condamine and the member for Stretton. I have been welcomed on the committee. We are dealing with a lot of issues. I certainly appreciate the opportunity to be on the Finance and Administration Committee. Coming from the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee and going to the Finance and Administration Committee, we are dealing with completely different issues and it is a good learning curve for me as a new member of parliament.

In the cut and thrust of politics, our estimates process reminds us how important this parliament is for our state. This parliament is the people's parliament. We, the elected representatives, have a very important role to play and this parliament has shaped our great state for a very long time. Once you become a member of parliament you really do appreciate the significance of this great House and the people who are honoured and lucky enough to have the opportunity to represent whatever part of the state they belong to.

The Appropriation Bill that is put before parliament is the genesis of the infrastructure spending right around the state for a very long time. I am glad that this parliament provides us with an opportunity to scrutinise the Appropriation Bill. I think that is very important. Every member has an opportunity, no matter what side of politics they are on, to scrutinise the Appropriation Bill, which plays a significant role in growing our state and provides an opportunity to move forward in the 21st century.

This parliament provides us with an opportunity that we should never, ever take for granted. We live in a democracy which is fair and just, and we have an opportunity as citizens of this great state to participate in this parliament. If you are a citizen, you have the opportunity to meet with your local parliamentarian. What the estimates process was able to show is that through the committee process we can scrutinise the budget. We were able to see what the budget was there for.

Through the estimates process and through the Finance and Administration Committee of this parliament we were able to scrutinise the ministers of the day right across all portfolios to see what is actually in it for them, what is actually in it for Queensland when it comes to this budget. Certainly it was an opportunity to be able to put fine detail on what is actually being spent here in Queensland.

Through that committee process we were able to see that the Labor government is racking up the credit card bill again. Through the estimates committee process we were able to find out that the State Actuary only recommended that \$2 billion be drawn down on Public Service superannuation but

the Treasurer was happy—very happy—to make that \$4 billion. We discovered that through the estimates process and through the Finance and Administration Committee, and this parliament provides that opportunity to be able to see the budget in fine detail.

Finally, I would again like to thank the staff. I would also like to pay tribute to the parliamentary staff from security, to the caterers, to the people who do the laundry. As a Western Queensland member, as a member from regional Queensland—and I am sure the member for Callide would agree with this as well being here for such a long time—sometimes you get a bit homesick when you are here.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr MILLAR: No, of course not.

(Time expired)