




Speech By  
**Linus Power**

**MEMBER FOR LOGAN**

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Record of Proceedings, 16 August 2016

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

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (11.19 pm): Firstly, I must apologise for not being part of the estimates public hearing process; I was sick. I wish to thank the member for Stretton for filling in for me. No doubt he asked far more intelligent and insightful questions than I would have done.

I thank the committee staff—Kate McGuckin, Rachelle Stacey, Lisa and Julie. I also thank the other members of the committee—the member for Kallangur, the member for Southport, the member for Whitsunday and the member for Murrumba. As I said, they stepped into the breach when I was not there. I also wish to thank the ministers who participated—Minister Bailey and Minister Hinchliffe.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Farmer): I ask you to refer to the ministers by their proper titles.

**Mr POWER:** Certainly. I thank the ministers with their long titles. The committee has prepared the report looking at the budget statement and documents, examined the answers to questions on notice and also the answers given at the public hearing.

Viewing the hearing as an outsider instead of this time as a participant, I was struck by a few things. Firstly, I saw clear evidence that the opposition members of the committee were silenced, given almost no questions. They had a contribution to make but unfortunately they were silent—as I was, sick at home. Secondly, the blow-in special guests had little interest in the program of actually examining the estimates. Instead, they made a few misguided attempts at a media grab that often fell flat. They were asked again and again. We wasted valuable time with these failed media focused stunts. I will give the House an example.

At one point we asked the question: what is the Solar 60 scheme and why has it become the Solar 120 scheme? The minister made the assumption that the question was about how the Palaszczuk government would go about meeting its solar target and proceeded to answer as such. The opposition member raised a point of order—

I thought the question was to explain why the name has been changed ...

The chair interceded—

The question was regarding solar and Solar 120, yes.

The opposition member replied—

I am still trying to understand what the 60 means and what the 120 means.

Minister Bailey said—

I am happy to inform the member ... that 120 refers to 120 megawatts of power produced by large-scale renewable energy ...

Members should be asking questions that are not answerable by any 30-second web search. Before wasting the time of the committee, take 30 seconds to research. The very first line of the Queensland government Solar 120 page reads—

We have committed to supporting up to 120 megawatts of solar power generation in Queensland ...

Even worse was the interminable line of questioning from the member for Burleigh. It resembled one of those surrealist comedy acts. He constantly asked if there was a media campaign about consumer choice. He was quickly assured that there was a \$3.3 million campaign across TV, radio, digital, on the web and through social media. Yet he just could not get it. Again, a quick web search would have revealed that there was the 'Click! Call! Ask!' campaign. If the honourable member had gone to, as the ads advocated, [qld.gov.au/electricity/energy-save](http://qld.gov.au/electricity/energy-save), he would have learnt all about the campaign and not wasted the committee's time. The 'Click! Call! Ask!' slogan of the campaign could equally be applied to the need to research by those opposite during the estimates process. Please, next year at least google the answers to your questions. You may save yourselves a lot of time and ask more relevant questions.

There were insightful questions about the roads budget. If I had the chance, I would have asked for further details about the more than \$35 million investment in the Mount Lindesay Highway and pushed for even more. I would have been able to get an update on the \$40 million investment on the Waterford-Tamborine Road. However, I have put my questions directly to the minister and I thank him for his time.

The Minister for Transport outlined the Fairer Fares package. For my own area that means a \$2.06 saving on a fare from Browns Plains. I saw that the projections about increased patronage are fairly conservative. I know that every member here is out there advertising the Fairer Fares package, and we will see far more passengers on routes such as the 150, the 560 and on any of the Logan buses and other buses in the TransLink network. I commend the report to the House.