




Speech By
Patrick Weir

MEMBER FOR CONDAMINE

Record of Proceedings, 16 August 2016

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (2.51 pm): I would like to join with my colleagues in thanking the chair, the member for Sunnybank; the member for Bundamba; our deputy chair, the member for Mermaid Beach; as well as the member for Gregory. As my colleague from Gregory just mentioned, the committee process, which includes the estimates process, does provide an opportunity for proper scrutiny of the bills that come before the House during the year. Earlier in the year the Finance and Administration Committee conducted an investigation into four-year terms. The member for Stretton and I are the only original members of the committee. We went through that process. One thing that was highlighted during that whole process was that Queensland does not have an upper house; the only level of scrutiny of legislation is in the estimates process and in the committee process. That was on display again during this year's estimates committee hearings. I thoroughly enjoyed that.

I would also like to thank Amanda Honeyman, the research director with our team, who puts in enormously long hours. She and her team do a fantastic job.

There were several issues brought up, which have already been mentioned. The works on level 7 took up a fair bit of time. It has obviously run a little bit over schedule. They ran into some serious setbacks there with wet weather and asbestos. Apparently an enormous amount of asbestos was uncovered during those works. Of course, the restoration of the stonework is an ongoing process and we all look forward to that being completed.

The member for Mermaid Beach also commented on the moving of the member for Cook into his new digs. He apparently was not happy with the ease of access to his office. I would have thought that would be something you would really favour as a member of parliament. Apparently we do not all think the same.

The Speaker also talked about some new software for recording and storing emails, a new system that has been put in place to help replace the paper system. Some new staff have also come on board to assist in the committee process. Committees will be able to self-initiate inquiries, and the addition of new staff will help to cover that workload. I think that will be a great thing for the committees.

The member for Stretton mentioned the native bees. The Speaker went into quite some detail about his partnership with the University of Technology regarding native bees. We will be interested to see how that goes. Somehow I think it will be a long time before we will be having honey on toast for breakfast. I say good luck to him on that.

I would also like to thank the Speaker for helping me with the relocation of my office in Dalby. The office I had in Dalby previously was extremely substandard. I did not like my staff working in it. It was an embarrassment. The Speaker passed that, along with the CLA. I would like to thank the Speaker for that and all those who assisted with that transition. While I have the opportunity I would also like to thank my staff in the Dalby office. They are the front line for every member of parliament. They are the

ones who take the angry phone calls. They are the ones who deal with the walk-ins. They do a fantastic job and I thank them very much for everything that they do.

I would also like to join with the member for Gregory in thanking everybody else in the Parliamentary Service whether it be in catering or security. We really are made to feel welcome. It is a home away from home for us during these sittings, and they are long hours. We get tired and drawn out at the end of these long sittings, but they are still working over in the cafeteria looking after us. I say thank you very much to all of them. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time on the Finance and Administration Committee and I look forward to the coming year.