




Speech By
Rob Molhoek

MEMBER FOR SOUTHPORT

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APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (10.54 pm): I rise to speak in regard to the estimates process and particularly the committee report from the Transportation and Utilities Committee. I acknowledge the role that Mr Shane King, member for Kallangur, played. He certainly was very gracious in the amount of time that he allotted to opposition members in pursuit of their line of questioning. I also want to acknowledge the other members of the committee: Mr Jason Costigan, member for Whitsunday; Mr Matt McEachan, member for Redlands; Mr Linus Power, member for Logan; Mr Chris Whiting, member for Murrumba; and our replacement member for the estimates hearing, Mr Duncan Pegg, member for Stretton. I acknowledge the great work of the committee staff, particularly Ms Kate McGuckin, Ms Rachelle Stacey, Ms Lisa Van Der Kley and Ms Julie Fidler, the executive assistant.

On the day we heard from the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply. We also heard from the Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games. It was a jam-packed day. Earlier tonight we heard from the Minister for Health, who suggested that the Labor government of today are doing a sterling job. I think he said something about the opposition should be given the gold medal for its previous performance. The Labor government deserves the gold medal for unbridled borrowing and unbridled spending. The chair of our committee said earlier that he thought that our statement of reservation contained some rhetoric. It is not rhetoric when you keep spending money meant for our kid's future. It is not rhetoric when you start raiding superannuation funds to prop up the budget.

It is a shame that members of the government have such short memories. It was that side of the House that brought in standards for local government across Queensland back in the era of Peter Beattie that said that councils have to balance their budget. They actually introduced the standards—international accounting standards, I must add, and finance standards—for councils across Queensland that insist that the councils balance their budget. I know firsthand from the experience I had at Gold Coast City Council that we were not allowed to deliver a budget to the ratepayers of the city without being able to balance the books. There was a little bit of latitude for a variance. One year we were \$43 million in surplus and another year we were \$12 million over. What we see in this budget that is presented is reckless, irresponsible spending with no eye on the future. They are absolutely burgering the state of Queensland. Under the Beattie government we had the Beattie burger logo. This government is burgering the Queensland state economy.

I want to talk briefly about a number of issues that came up during the committee hearing. One was the response from the minister in respect to the Commonwealth Games. We heard that there has effectively been a shadow bureaucracy put in place in Brisbane to shadow and duplicate the great work that Goldoc are already doing on the Gold Coast. Labor do not understand that you do not keep adding more and more people who do not produce something. I am absolutely in favour of more staff for front-line services, people who actually help people, but I fail to see why we need another 81 bureaucrats in Brisbane simply to shadow the work of Goldoc down on the Gold Coast. I could

understand if the minister said we need four or five people in Brisbane to keep an eye on what they are doing and to monitor their activities and provide intelligent and timely reporting to government on how things are progressing and if there were, in a sense, an audit process in place, but 81 more bureaucrats here in the centre of Brisbane to monitor the activities of Goldoc is absolutely ridiculous and this from a government that is saying it is committed to the regions and to growing Queensland.

We heard from Minister Bailey about the wonderful Solar 120 program and how it will create more jobs. It will create installation jobs. We do not make solar panels in Queensland. They are imported from Germany and China. We do not make the battery storage systems that we heard so much about in estimates. I fail to see where these miraculous jobs are coming from apart from a few installation jobs. By the way, those solar cells have a life of 30 years so once they are installed they will not be creating any more jobs.

(Time expired)