




Speech By
Shane King

MEMBER FOR KALLANGUR

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APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL

 **Mr KING** (Kallangur—ALP) (10.49 pm): I rise to speak to the 21st report tabled by the Transportation and Utilities Committee, this being a report on the Appropriation Bill 2016. The process around setting of times for the hearing involved some negotiation. However, we were able to agree on timing, order and conditions for the examination fairly quickly and I have to say we worked well together during the day.

I would like to thank all committee members—Deputy Chair Rob Molhoek, committee members Chris Whiting, Jason Costigan, Matt McEachan, Linus Power and our proxy member for the day, Duncan Pegg—for their work and the amicable way all issues were resolved. I hope our committee can continue to work together in this way as I think that would be what the people of Queensland would want and expect. I would also like to thank the ministers, their staff, directors-general and their departments and the GOC executives for their participation on the day. We had a number of non-committee members who attended on the day to question the ministers, directors-general and CEOs. I would also like to thank them for their participation. Thanks also to Hansard, attendant staff and also the Transportation and Utilities Committee secretariat for their hard work in preparing for and work on the day: Kate, Rachelle, Julie and Lisa, thank you all very much.

On the day we started with questioning over energy and water supply. Questions were raised around the topics of the deregulation of the South-East Queensland energy market and what impacts this may have on consumers. The answers were around why our government chose to delay deregulation to consult with advocacy groups to better tailor our education campaign so that consumers can make more educated decisions around deregulation instead of just being hit with it. There was also questioning around the merger of Energex and Ergon which, by the way, was an election commitment of the Palaszczuk government, and the energy services businesses. The answers poured more water on the scare campaign the opposition is running in regard to the energy services business and the fact that they are not looking to compete in the existing markets where there is already capacity.

Mr Hart interjected.

Mr KING: If the member had been listening on the day, he would have heard that. I was pleased to see the investment in capital works to connect 100,000 Moreton Bay residents to the South-East Queensland water grid. This capital works program will effectively decommission the Petrie water treatment plant and is cheaper than a necessary upgrade to the plant.

During the Transport and Main Roads examination of the budget, I was particularly pleased to see more flashing school signs being installed in my electorate as well as throughout the state. The Dakabin station options study was also looked at and that will no doubt reinforce what my community knows, and that is that Dakabin station is past its use-by date and needs an upgrade. What did surprise me was a line of questioning from the Auditor-General's report No. 8 of 2015-16 on signalling from the shadow minister for transport which appeared to me to threaten to prejudice the current independent

review into the Moreton Bay Rail Link holdups. Once we sorted out the integrity of the review would be intact, the CEO of Queensland Rail informed us there were no signalling issues identified which were large enough to warrant a holdup to the program during the period of the Auditor-General's report in question. However, it was noted from the document provided by the shadow minister that QR signalling engineers had raised concerns with the MACroLok system in 2014 before construction started and when the LNP were in government. The line of questioning ended very quickly.

The last area of examination went well and I commend the shadow minister for the Commonwealth Games for asking the most relevant questions of the day from the opposition side. As usual there was a fair bit of ideology and political game play carried out by the opposition, as well as a few very tired slogans. However, in general this year went better than the last with fewer speeches instead of questions, fewer imputations and interjections and fewer hypothetical questions. This aside, I still managed to give the opposition members a larger share of the time allotted and largely the process was a bipartisan examination of the Appropriation Bill for the portfolios examined which our committee has agreed should be passed without amendment. Despite the opposition's very political statement of reservation—or should I say statement of rhetoric—this examination provided a satisfactory interrogatory look into the Appropriation Bill. I commend the report to the House.