




Speech By
Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR SANDGATE

Record of Proceedings, 16 August 2016

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games) (3.11 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate of the report on the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2016. I acknowledge the range of input from members of the estimates committee, members who attended part of the estimates committee hearing and other members interested in ensuring we continue to appropriately fund and support not only a great parliamentary precinct but also a great Parliamentary Service and the work that service needs to do to support all of our tasks and this institution. Mr Deputy Speaker Elmes, I ask that you pass on to the Speaker my congratulations on the work he has been doing in managing and delivering those services, with the support of the whole of the Parliamentary Service under the leadership of the Clerk.

One of the things dealt with in this report and at the estimates hearing for the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill relates to the extra resources being put into the committee process. I think it is important, in the face of growing demands—growing community expectation and capacity to engage in the committee process—that we resource committees properly to support additional opportunities for committees to engage in policy development and address community issues.

I also note that, as part of a broader look at how we manage these things, the Parliamentary Service has developed a new strategic plan and created an organisational structure for the Parliamentary Service that is more responsive to modern demands and expectations of our parliament, the members of this chamber and indeed the broader community that we serve.

I particularly note that in this financial year we will see the completion of the stonework restoration program—a project in the early days of which I was involved when I played another role in this place, working for a former Speaker. It reminds me how old I am that things have moved on so far that we will see the completion of that very long, extensive, quite difficult and tricky process of stonework restoration in a way which had not occurred, as alluded to by the members for Callide and Toowoomba North, for many decades. It will be great to see that work completed and know that the outcome will be enjoyed by the people of Queensland. This building is a great asset and great part of our heritage and will remain so for many decades to come.

In addition to the improvements and dealing with the issues of the old house, some of the challenges of 1970s building that is annexed to this building are being dealt with. The works underway on level 7 will result in a great improvement. I again concur with the member for Callide and Leader of Opposition Business that this was overdue. It is important that we do continue to have bipartisan support for getting that project done appropriately, to make sure it becomes a great asset to this precinct and allows the community to have access to this precinct in an appropriate way.

I conclude by thanking, on behalf of all of the members of the parliament, all of those parliamentary staff—not only our electorate officers and electorate staff across the state but also all of the staff across the different elements of the Parliamentary Service here within the precinct—for their dedication and their service to us, not only around this time of year but also throughout the year. I know that all members here value that very greatly. Mr Deputy Speaker Elmes, I again ask you to thank Mr Speaker for appearing before the estimates committee.