




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY

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APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL

 **Mrs SMITH** (Mount Ommaney—LNP) (9.35 pm): What did we learn in estimates for the portfolio of Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy? In her opening statement at estimates, the minister again said that the government had set a cracking pace. Let us see how that worked out, shall we? My opening question was straightforward enough. I asked the minister what her total budget was for this portfolio. The minister replied, not once but twice, that it was \$700,313,000, when in actual fact the transcript shows that it was recorded as '\$7,313,000'. The SDS indicates that it is \$361,000,625 and yet now I have a different set of figures again. In the report today, it is now \$360,441,000. We have four sets of figures that vary wildly from \$7 million to \$700 million. Is it any wonder that Queensland is in such bad shape? The state of Queensland slides further into a fiscal quagmire and we have now seen four different sets of figures. For the fifth time, the minister needs to try to tell us what the budget is for her department.

As members will recall, at the time of the election the centrepiece of the Palaszczuk government's campaign was jobs, jobs, jobs. Therefore, during the estimates hearing I felt that it was important that my next lot of questioning was around exactly how many jobs had been created. We have heard about Advance Queensland and the \$180 million that has been spent. We heard from the minister that it was creating jobs now and for the future. There were a few little tete-a-tetes going on, but in the end we found out that 148 jobs have been created in the past 18 months that this government has been in power. The minister was so proud. In the transcript, she says, 'There you go! Over 140 jobs have been created.' She was very proud of that. However, you should never ever say 'never', because who would have thought that the member for Bundamba and I would be on the same page as we were when we asked about the expense of the program. The member for Bundamba worked out that it was about \$405,000 for each job that had been created in the past 18 months. It was interesting that the poor director-general had to come in 15 minutes later and say, 'Guess what? No, we have actually lost 27 of those jobs, so it is only 121 jobs'.

How can we honestly have confidence in the minister and the credibility of the figures when they are wildly different? This has been there on display. We cannot get correct figures on job numbers. How can Queenslanders trust that all of these jobs will be there in the future when we cannot even get solid answers and data now? It does not stop there. Wait there is more. The minister and the government are full of wonderful sounding statements such as—

... what we are doing is setting up all of the right programs, initiatives et cetera to create the right environment in which we are going to be able to support start-ups and innovation in our state.

Doesn't that sound great? Then we asked about the methodology of how it was actually going to be managed. We asked how we are going to evaluate the spending of this taxpayers' money. It is a fair question, I say. She stated—

These methods may include in-depth case studies and interviews, surveys of benefiting firms, econometric analysis, and other low-cost experimental techniques that draw on latest private sector approaches.

I say it is a load of waffle.