




Speech By
Verity Barton

MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

Record of Proceedings, 16 August 2016

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL

 **Miss BARTON** (Broadwater—LNP) (8.56 pm): I look forward to correcting the record. As the member for Townsville will see, it is not the intention of members of this committee to vote against the appropriation. It is the intention of the non-government members of this committee to draw to the attention of the House the very serious concerns we have about some of the budget measures. These were concerns that had been raised by members on this side of the House in the lead-up to the estimates process, were raised during the estimates process and have been raised in the report. I say to the member for Townsville that he signed this report. It has his name on it. It is his report as the chair. The member for Townsville had an option to not agree to this report, and he as the chair agreed to a report that said that the committee could not agree with the appropriation.

In a spirit of bipartisanship, I acknowledge the work of the member for Townsville on the day as chair of the committee. It must be acknowledged that he was incredibly fair when it came to the management of time, ensuring that the shadow ministers had equal opportunity to put to ministers the very serious questions they had. I acknowledge the work that he and the secretariat did in the lead-up to, during and after the estimates process. I also acknowledge my colleagues on the education committee—the members for Buderim and Albert—who I know would like to make a contribution to this report debate. However, given the limited time frame and the number of shadow ministers who wish to speak, they will unlikely have the opportunity to do so. I thank the shadow ministers who took the time to come to the education committee's estimates hearing to raise the very important issues that have been detailed in our statement of reservation on behalf of all Queenslanders. I refer to my good friend and colleague and partner in crime—I am Robin to her Batman, as Amy Remeikis would say—the member for Aspley; the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Clayfield; the member for Beaudesert; the member for Mount Ommaney; and the member for Indooroopilly.

This was a budget of raids, writedowns and rip-offs. That is why the members of the education committee felt compelled to draw the attention of the House to the grave concerns that we have. In the estimates hearing neither the Minister for Education nor the director-general could be clear about who is responsible for the school in Aurukun and how they are going to address the concerns of the community. As the member for Maroochydore highlighted in her contribution on an earlier estimates report, she, the member for Aspley and I had an opportunity to visit that community during the week and we are very concerned about how these issues are going to be addressed. We also saw the Minister for Education flippantly disregard statistics with respect to the number of teachers who are being assaulted by students. We have seen the minister completely disregard those statistics, but for each and every one of those teachers it is a very big concern.

In the area of Tourism and Major Events we saw a clear lack of cooperation and coordination between departments with respect to very major tourism infrastructure, with the Minister for Tourism saying that she was not responsible for something that appeared in her glossy brochure, and I think at that stage it was edition No. 6 by the time she had been able to fix it up. In that portion of the estimates

when considering Tourism and Major Events we also saw some very significant concerns raised about our ability to tender for, manage and retain minor and major events. That was highlighted by not only the breach of confidentiality with respect to the NRL World Cup but also concerns—

Ms JONES: I rise to a point of order. I find the comments made by the honourable member offensive and I ask for them to be withdrawn. As I told the estimates hearing under oath, there was no breach of confidentiality by the state government. I reject that and I ask you to withdraw. It has serious consequences. Stop playing games. I ask that she withdraw it.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! Thank you, Minister.

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr STEVENS: I rise to a point of order.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member, I am already dealing with one point of order.

Mr STEVENS: I would like to raise a point of order—as you are well aware, I am entitled to—on that point of order.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: I hope the member is not showing disrespect to the chair.

Mr STEVENS: I am raising a point of order which, as the chair knows, I am well allowed to do.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

Mr STEVENS: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. My point of order—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: And I warn you not to show disrespect to the chair in the manner in which you are addressing the chair. You may make your point of order and do so in a respectful manner please.

Mr STEVENS: Please explain to me how I am disrespecting the chair. I am not disrespecting the chair.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may resume your seat.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I rise to a point of order, Madam Deputy Speaker. I would draw to your attention that in fact that very question is showing some level of disrespect to the request that you had made and I ask that you draw the member back to order.

Miss BARTON: Madam Deputy Speaker, if I could speak to the minister's point of order.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Would you please resume your seat? I was not at the time able to hear. There is some debate about whether the matter was personally offensive. However, I am going to rule in this instance that if the minister did find it personally offensive I ask the member to withdraw please.

Miss BARTON: Thank you very much, Madam Deputy Speaker; I withdraw. What we saw—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! One moment please, member for Broadwater. Are there any other outstanding points of order? If not, I call the member for Broadwater.

Miss BARTON: What we saw during the estimates process was evidence that there had been a breach of confidentiality and the opposition has raised concerns about what that means for our ability to gain, continue and retain major and minor events. We also saw significant concerns in the area of science, technology and innovation in that it is \$500,000 for every job created and, despite the minister's obfuscation, she simply could not hide the fact. We also saw in the area of small business that she was unable to identify whether or not the Chamber of Commerce was supportive of the Small Business Champions. She did not know how many Queenslanders were employed in small business and she was not able to understand how the payroll tax scheme works in Queensland, and nor was she able to say whether or not this government supports the effects test for small business. What we have seen is a continued shambles by this asleep-at-the-wheel Labor government demonstrated in estimates.