




Speech By  
**Deb Frecklington**

**MEMBER FOR NANANGO**

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Record of Proceedings, 8 August 2017

**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL:  
FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.57 pm): It is fantastic to follow the brains trust who was meant to be speaking on the Finance and Administration Committee report. He addressed the wrong report. For the majority of his speech he was talking about the appropriation for the Legislative Assembly. Then I think he wandered off into a territory where the honourable member for Whitsunday was on the committee. It is difficult to understand how his contribution had any relevance to the Finance and Administration Committee report.

We all know—it has been said by the Leader of the Opposition—that the Labor government promised a jobs bonanza but instead has given Queensland a jobs crisis and a budget that is simply a con job. The Finance and Administration Committee hearing went from bad to worse for this government. The Premier continued with a culture of cover-ups and secrecy, dodging questions about the conduct of disgraced former energy minister Mark Bailey, described by the CCC to be ‘a reasonable suspicion of corrupt conduct’. The Premier avoided answering questions on this topic by parroting the word ‘CCC’ in a bid to absolve herself of responsibility for the questionable actions of one of her ministers.

The release of the Working for Queensland survey, conducted 12 months ago, was held over until after the Premier had appeared at estimates. Such is the conduct of the government, which is riddled with cover-ups and secrecy, that reports are held over until the Premier is not around to answer questions. Perhaps the Premier’s attempts to hide the document was because the survey clearly shows drops in satisfaction with her department in terms of organisational leadership and development.

The Finance and Administration Committee again heard about the risks of the government’s \$4 billion reckless raid on the Public Service superannuation fund. It was revealed during the estimates hearing that the Treasurer’s own chief of staff used the terminology ‘raid’ or ‘raiding the fund’ in internal emails sent to the Treasurer and his office. This serves to show the short-sighted nature of the government’s super plunder. After heavy questioning, the Treasurer finally revealed that the Palaszczuk government had hired Labor mate Craig Emerson to conduct a review into Trade & Investment Queensland. We now have a Palaszczuk government minister subcontracting out ministerial responsibility to former failed Labor ministers. It is a disgrace that approximately \$80,000 of taxpayers’ money has been given to a Labor mate. The committee heard the former trade minister, the member for South Brisbane, did not seek the advice of trade policy specialists in TIQ prior to the damaging remarks about US President-elect Donald Trump. We would all recall that the Deputy Premier launched an extraordinarily politically motivated attack on the President-elect, saying that America could do better than having a bigoted man as their leader.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** This from a government that does not support trade and investment! So disappointing. It is unprecedented that a Queensland trade minister would make such partisan remarks without consultation with the trade policy specialists. This tirade again showed that the member for

South Brisbane has brought a level of cheap student politics to this House and is willing to put her personal views and interests ahead of all Queenslanders. The committee did not receive an answer as to why both the Premier and the then trade minister did not attend the Premier's Export Awards as it has occurred in 2016 and 2017. The Premier's Export Awards is the annual flagship event for Trade & Investment Queensland, so it is disappointing that neither the Premier nor the then trade minister, the member for South Brisbane, attended this event to congratulate and celebrate Queensland businesses growing the state's economy through exports. The statement of reservation further outlines the LNP's concerns about the budget—a budget that promised a jobs bonanza but gave Queensland a jobs crisis. This budget is simply a con job. In the time remaining I want to congratulate and thank our Deputy Chair, Ray Stevens, the member for Mermaid Beach, for his conduct throughout the proceedings.