




Speech By
Joan Pease

MEMBER FOR LYTTON

Record of Proceedings, 8 August 2017

**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL:
PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES COMMITTEE**

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (10.53 pm): I rise today to speak to report No. 42 of the Public Works and Utilities Committee on the 2017-18 budget estimates. The committee has recommended that the proposed expenditure as detailed in the Appropriation Bill 2017 for the portfolios of Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports; Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply; Housing and Public Works; and Sport be agreed to without amendment.

Firstly, I would like to thank the committee and of course the chair, the member for Kallangur, for his outstanding leadership of the committee during the hearings. I thank my parliamentary colleagues on both sides of the House and the secretariat for their continued professionalism. I acknowledge the following ministers: the Acting Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports, the Hon. Steven Miles; the Acting Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply, the Hon. Curtis Pitt; and the Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Sport, the Hon. Mick de Brenni—all of whom displayed an outstanding, in-depth knowledge of their portfolio area during the estimates hearings. I would also like to acknowledge the chief executives and departmental officials who assisted in the inquiry process and all of the departmental staff who worked on the estimates process.

This budget is a commitment to Queenslanders, delivering the Palaszczuk government's third surplus budget. The process of estimates, as you know, is an important one, providing an opportunity to hear in detail about government expenditure for the coming year. In fact, the parliamentary website states—

The estimates process aids the Parliament in its scrutiny of the Government's proposed expenditure. Since 1994, committees of the parliament have undertaken the estimates process, by examining and reporting on the proposed expenditures contained in the Appropriation Bill ...

Therefore, Madam Deputy Speaker, you can imagine my disappointment that, rather than examine the expenditure, the LNP turned their back on the budget, just like they have turned their back on Queenslanders, including baysiders. Baysiders know that the LNP have a record of doing just that. In my electorate of Lytton, the former Nicholls-Newman government slashed services—the Moreton Bay Nursing Care Unit, closed; the department of housing, closed; the child safety department, closed; the bayside tenancy advice service, closed across the whole state, not just in my electorate; the manufactured home advisory service, closed; the 24-hour primary care clinic, closed; and the mental health services, closed. These were services that were so important to my community. Our local traders also felt the impact, with fewer customers and fewer locals with less money to spend.

Mr Rickuss interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! Member for Lockyer, the member for Lytton is not taking your interjections—

Mr Rickuss interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not ask for your opinion on what I have just told you.

Mr RICKUSS: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. She is talking about some past budgets.

Mr Pegg interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am going to wait for all members to settle down. We do not have conversations across the chamber, we do not make interjections that are not being accepted by the member speaking and we do not speak back to the Speaker.

Ms PEASE: Let me talk about the contribution by those opposite to the estimates process and in particular the member for Whitsunday. Members will know that I am a huge footy fan, but like many fans I turned the volume down whenever he was commentating. When the member for Whitsunday was commentating and the member for Everton was refereeing, it was a perfect storm. Speaking of storms, I wish I could have turned the volume down when, shamefully, the member for Whitsunday attempted to assert that my area was not affected because the terrible storm was 1,000 kilometres away from where the devastating Cyclone Debbie hit.

Mr Pegg: Did he get his numbers right?

Ms PEASE: Thank you for that interjection, member for Stretton. Member for Whitsunday, it is actually 937 kilometres away to be precise, but this is not the first time that the member for Whitsunday has been sloppy. My local area was certainly affected by the cyclone. I spent many hours helping with sandbagging and assisting people who were extremely concerned about the effect the weather conditions would have locally and on our neighbours in the Logan region. I delivered food and toys that were supplied by my community to the evacuation centres to help our neighbours in the Brisbane region. Next time the member for Whitsunday gets a silly idea, he should perhaps press the mute button.

The Palaszczuk government supports all Queenslanders—concessions have increased across the state, the advocacy and advice services for tenants and manufactured home owners have returned, there are new protections for residents in retirement villages and manufactured homes, and, importantly, we have seen the return of bayside housing to bayside residents. Let us not forget we returned the 24-hour primary care, mental health services and other front-line services. The Palaszczuk government is committed to delivering quality front-line services across our great state that were devastated by the LNP. The Palaszczuk government is committed to helping disadvantaged and vulnerable people through rebates and concessions.