




Speech By
Linus Power

MEMBER FOR LOGAN

Record of Proceedings, 8 August 2017

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

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (2.52 pm): It is such a pity to cut off the Leader of the Opposition, but if he cannot plan his time properly then that is up to him. In looking at the budget of this state at estimates hearings, either we can ask questions that look to lift up Queenslanders or we can ask questions that are irrelevant and pointless. In 150 years of this parliament we perhaps have not seen a lower point than the questions asked by the member for Clayfield. When all of the big issues were there to be discussed, we heard the priorities of the member for Clayfield. All he could ask about were lifts. He asked five questions about lifts—not the safety of lifts in our high-rise buildings across Queensland but about one lift in particular. He wasted his precious time asking five questions about the lift in the Annexe. That is the lift that takes him to bed. That is not lifting up any Queenslander. He asked those questions only for his own benefit. The residents of Logan do not care about the lifts of the member for Clayfield; they care about our roads, schools and health services. Now they know that the member for Clayfield was more interested in the lift that takes him up to sleep—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! Member for Logan, I do have to point out to you that we are talking about the estimates hearing involving the Premier, the Treasurer and the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations. I ask you to ensure you are speaking to the Appropriation Bill.

Mr POWER: Certainly. I am quoting directly from the questions and answers that were put to the Speaker at the estimates hearing.

Opposition members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Thank you very much. I am in charge of what happens in the chamber. I have already addressed this with the member for Logan and I think he is quite capable of taking my advice.

Mr POWER: The estimates hearing exposed the priorities of the former treasurer in the Newman government. I chose to ask questions about what this budget was doing to lift up Queenslanders. The member for Clayfield asked about irrelevancies and had little time for questions about the budget. The questions he asked were about irrelevancies. Instead, I tried to ask about things that would lift up Queensland.

As the member for Logan, my job is to find out how this budget would help. That is why I asked the Premier to advise the committee on the process for the category D application for communities devastated by severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie. The Premier said that Cyclone Debbie caused devastation across such a large part of Queensland. She also said—

In fact ... we have a map that shows the devastation that was caused right across the state. The councils that were impacted by the cyclone and the aftermath of the floods nominated the projects that were included in my government's submission for category D, the business case.

It is a pity that the member for Whitsunday did not listen to my speech or the speech of the member for Waterford about the impact of Cyclone Debbie with the flooding of the Albert River and the Logan River. When I pointed this out, Lisa said about the member for Whitsunday—

I wonder if he would ... sit in a room and tell the 27 farmers impacted by Cyclone Debbie in Logan, 'You are irrelevant!' The losses on our farm impacted our 8 staff and their families!

Kirsty said—

We are 'lucky' we only rented so 'only' lost household contents that took nearly a week to clean out with the help of the Mud Army friends and family. Only to be told right on the heels of it all there's no accommodation for you.

Unfortunately, it seems that the Prime Minister also thinks the impact of Cyclone Debbie is irrelevant. We heard that formal NDRRA category D applications had been sent to the Prime Minister on 11 May for affected communities like Logan and, of course, Whitsunday, Mackay and Mirani. All of them are important. The application sought \$220 million, with the funding to be shared equally—fifty-fifty—by the Queensland government and the federal government. We expected matching funds of \$110 million—matching the funds in the Queensland budget papers. LNP members need to stand up to their mates in Canberra and insist that Queensland gets its fair share.

I also asked the Premier about lifting up Queenslanders through jobs. I asked the Premier what role defence plays in the economic and community life of Queensland. The Premier informed us that Rheinmetall had picked Queensland over Victoria as the preferred place for its headquarters to develop the new Boxers. This shows that the Queensland government, through the budget, is creating jobs and attracting jobs for others.

There are two choices in this place: either we can put forward a budget that lifts up Queenslanders or we can play cheap politics—politics that fails Queenslanders and fails to see where we can provide the jobs and the health services that Queenslanders need. The committee agreed unanimously to pass the budget because it lifts up Queenslanders.