



Speech By
Peter Russo

MEMBER FOR SUNNYBANK

Record of Proceedings, 8 August 2017

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

 **Mr RUSSO** (Sunnybank—ALP) (2.30 pm): I rise as chair of the Finance and Administration Committee to speak to the examination of the budget estimates and to present report No. 42 on the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2017. I pass on the recommendation of the committee that all proposed expenditure as detailed in the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2017 be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly without amendment. On behalf of the committee, I thank the Speaker, the Clerk of the Parliament and their staff for attending our committee hearing on 18 July. The detailed information provided to the committee and the relevant experience and rationale for the changes were very helpful to the committee in our consideration of the proposed expenditure.

I note Mr Speaker's advice that this will be his last estimates process. On behalf of the committee I thank the Speaker for his continued judicious stewardship of the Office of the Speaker and of the parliament and I wish him well in his future endeavours beyond the parliament.

In his opening statement to the committee during the estimates hearing held on 18 July, the Speaker reminded the committee that we are the custodians of our parliament and in this role we are responsible for maintaining and preserving the heritage of our parliament and the role it has played in Queensland's history. It is important that we ensure that the parliament remains relevant to meet the needs of the people it serves. In his opening statement the Speaker also outlined that once the next state election is held parliament will undergo the most significant change in over 30 years following the recent electoral boundary redistribution and the increase in the number of members in the parliament from 89 to 93.

The Speaker went on to advise the committee that the next state election will be the last state election before the amendments to the Constitution of Queensland will see fixed dates for future elections. The Speaker went on to advise that the key focus for 2017-18 will be the planning for, and managing of, the impacts of these changes as they occur and to transition from the 55th Parliament to the 56th Parliament.

Mr Speaker went on to also advise the committee that when he appeared before the committee last year he approved the new strategic plan and organisational infrastructure for the Parliamentary Service. The Speaker informed the committee that the new strategic plan and organisational infrastructure has now been implemented to better focus service delivery to parliament, its members and our committees.

The Parliamentary Service recently launched an update to its broadcast of proceedings system, now named Parliament.TV. The new broadcasting system, as the Speaker advised, will make it easier for the public to access the broadcast using portable devices. The Speaker also advised the committee that a similar upgrade to the members' video on demand service is planned over the coming months, and I think we have seen that come to fruition.

The Speaker also spoke about the capital works program for 2017-18. The Speaker outlined the highlights: the need to preserve the parliament's heritage while delivering a modern, relevant workplace. It is anticipated that the final stage of the parliamentary stonework restoration will hopefully be completed in October 2017. The committee has been advised that the restoration of the Queensland parliament started almost 25 years ago. The planning has now also commenced for the final stage to design work for the upgrade and restoration of the heritage fence, which is anticipated to commence this year. The completion of the restoration of the Queensland parliament is to coincide with the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the first sitting of the Queensland parliament.