




Speech By  
**Scott Stewart**

**MEMBER FOR TOWNSVILLE**

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**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL:  
EDUCATION, TOURISM, INNOVATION AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE**

 **Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (8.29 pm): This evening I rise to speak to the estimates report for the Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee. Firstly, I want to acknowledge and thank the secretariat staff—committee secretary, Sue Cawcutt, and assistant secretary, Maureen Coorey—for their work and also acknowledge all members on the committee for the work they have done. I also want to acknowledge the various directors-general, CEOs and public servants involved in the estimates process for the outstanding job they did in preparing for estimates hearings. The other people we need to acknowledge are of course the ministers—the Hon. Kate Jones and the Hon. Leanne Enoch.

There was a plethora of great news in the Education portfolio. I have selected a couple of the key ones that I want to go through with the House's indulgence. The first is the \$154.5 million as part of the \$200 million in total funding for the construction of new halls through the Advancing Queensland State Schools program which also includes upgrading of existing halls and land acquisitions for new schools and capital investment in school facilities and job creation. There is not a single member in this House who said that that was a bad idea. I draw the attention of members of the House to the preparation of the senior assessment tertiary entrance system by investing \$27.6 million of \$72.9 million over five years to implement the new senior school assessment and tertiary entrance system for students entering year 11 from 2019, and the minister introduced a bill dealing with that earlier today.

The other issue I want to highlight is the performance of Queensland schools and their NAPLAN targets. We have celebrated and acknowledged that again today, but teachers are using NAPLAN to inform their everyday teaching and learning programs to deliver quality learning outcomes for every single child in their classroom by continuing the three-year \$152.4 million investment into hiring an additional 875 teachers. We talk about a jobs bonanza. When it comes to hiring extra teachers in our schools, this is well received in every one of our schools right throughout our communities. On top of this is the additional \$150 million over three years from 2018-19 and ongoing funding for investment in teacher attraction, quality and leadership, as well as building staff capability and capacity in response to the disability review.

When it comes to tourism and events the minister highlighted how she is providing \$3.5 million for the rebuilding and redevelopment of tourism infrastructure in the Whitsundays and surrounding areas that were devastated by ex-Tropical Cyclone Debbie. She is also continuing to implement the Advancing Tourism 2016-2020: Growing Queensland Jobs strategy including facilitating investment in tourism, infrastructure and experiences; showcasing the Great Barrier Reef and other natural assets; encouraging the development of ecotourism and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tourism products, events and experiences; and attracting new aviation services to Queensland. Of course, Townsville was one of those picking up Tiger Air and Air Niugini coming into Townsville. When it came to the Commonwealth Games, the minister spoke about the successes in terms of the preparation for the Commonwealth Games in 2018 where she outlined the completion of Commonwealth Games venues

including \$519,000 allocated to the State Velodrome for track cycling. The Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events and the Commonwealth Games clearly articulated how she focused on improving the learning outcomes of Queensland students, growing the tourism and events industries and is thoroughly prepared and ready for the Commonwealth Games.

Unfortunately, when it came to science and innovation, those opposite cited that they wished to interrogate the State Archivist during the estimates hearing and their demands were refused by government members on the committee, and rightly so. Under standing order 181(d), a committee member may ask the minister, the director-general or the chief executive officer questions only. Schedule 7 of the standing orders outlines exactly who those chief executives are, and that is on page 96 if anyone wishes to have a look at that. Even if the State Archivist were there for the hearing, they could not have been asked a direct question by the committee. These are the standing orders of this parliament agreed to by the members of this parliament, including those opposite. It seems that those opposite want to bend and change the rules only to suit themselves. That is what Queensland learned during the Newman government and that is what Queenslanders can expect under a Nicholls-led LNP government—one set of rules for Queensland battlers and a different set of rules for the big end of town.