




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR KALLANGUR

Record of Proceedings, 8 August 2017

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

 **Mr KING** (Kallangur—ALP) (10.32 pm): I rise tonight to speak about the Public Works and Utilities Committee's estimates committee report on its consideration of the Appropriation Bill 2017. The committee managed to set the times for the estimates quite easily this year. We were able to agree on the timing, order and conditions for the examination of each portfolio area fairly quickly. We did have a bit of a hiccup with some changes to ministerial representation for the day, but it all worked out well. I thank the Treasurer and the Minister for the Environment for stepping up and not only doing a second round of estimates but being all over the portfolios with only eight days preparation.

I would like to thank all committee members: deputy chair, Rob Molhoek; Joan Pease; Chris Whiting; Jason Costigan; and Matt McEachan. I thank our proxy member for the day, Duncan Pegg, for standing by to fill in if I lost my voice as I had a particularly bad flu on the day. I would like to thank again the ministers, their staff, the directors-general, their departments and GOC executives for their participation on the day.

We had a number of non-committee members who attended on the day to question the ministers, directors-general and CEOs. I would also like to thank them for their participation. Thanks also to Hansard, the attendants and the Public Works and Utilities Committee secretariat for their hard work in preparing for the hearing and their hard work on the day. Kate, Rachelle, Mishelle and Lynn, thank you very much.

We started with the examination of the Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports portfolio. Some of the highlights were: completing the Boundary Road interchange upgrade; progressing delivery of the Commonwealth Games upgrade package; and continuing works on the Gateway Upgrade North package. Some of the issues discussed included funding in QTRIP. An opposition member tried to be a bit cute by cherrypicking figures from one year in QTRIP to make the funding look skewed. However, as explained by the minister and director-general, the funding is over a four-year period. To quote the director-general—

To make a comparison year on year can be a bit difficult because you should be comparing four years with four years.

Once we had sorted this out to everyone's satisfaction we had some questioning about local funding of particular interest to me, that being the Petrie roundabout works which, as I have stressed, are quite urgent because the new University of the Sunshine Coast campus is coming to the old Petrie mill site in my area. The only disappointing part of this session was that the member for Whitsunday was apparently not aware that it was not only the people of North Queensland who suffered tragedy during recent Tropical Cyclone Debbie.

We moved on to the Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply portfolio. The member for Burleigh appeared to struggle somewhat with the government direction to Stanwell Corporation being under the energy act and not the Corporations Act. He also seemed to have a bit of a problem with the way government owned corporations raise revenue and the fact that their bidding strategies are commercial-

in-confidence. If former treasurer and now opposition leader Tim Nicholls had his way they would have sold these entities and there would have been no opportunity to question them at all. We have retained government ownership, as we promised. They still have their commercial-in-confidence business decisions. I suggest the member for Burleigh studies the standing orders regarding GOCs before the next estimates.

The member for Burleigh also tabled a bill from Dodo, with no names or explanation, but showing a rise in electricity prices. It did not say whether it was a large business or a residential premises. I do not know what it was supposed to prove other than that a private retailer had raised prices. That night on the news it was clarified that it was an erroneous bill. I am glad for the consumer involved that it has all been sorted out. Questioning continued. I thank members for their contributions and questioning about the fantastic Powering Queensland Plan.

We then moved on to the Housing and Public Works portfolio. We had some robust questioning about the rollout of the 10-year, \$1.6 billion Queensland Housing Strategy. We finished off with the Sport portfolio, where some of the highlights were \$20.6 million over four years to support Stadiums Queensland and \$64.3 million to support grassroots sport and recreation participation. The member for Beaudesert showed his love for cricket by referring to each questioning session as an innings and his apparent obsession with drop-in pitches. I would like to thank members for their rigorous questioning of this portfolio.

As always, there was a lot of ideology and political game play carried out by the opposition. As well as their usual tired slogan, their statement of reservation—or rhetoric, as I see it—appears to be a political campaign piece more than an account of what happened on the day. Sadly, this is what we have come to expect from this lame duck opposition.

I still managed to give opposition members a far larger share of the time allotted—actually 53 minutes longer. The member for Whitsunday giving me a clock for some reason at one stage was obviously his recognition and thanks for this. I commend the report to the House.