




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

Record of Proceedings, 22 August 2018

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development
Committee, Report**

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (12.19 pm): I am delighted to speak today in response to the committee report on my portfolio areas of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning.

Mr Powell interjected.

Mr DICK: I take the interjection from the member for Glass House. I encourage him to just wait.

Due to the investments made by this government, we have seen a new era of optimism and opportunity emerge in Queensland. Significant jobs growth has been supported by nation-leading business confidence, with Deloitte Access Economics predicting that Queensland will lead Australia's economic growth for the next decade. None of this occurs by accident, as demonstrated by what has occurred in relation to confidence and employment growth in Queensland. If we look at the comparator, which is of course the Newman government, what happened to confidence and employment under them? Catastrophic results! We all remember those dark days when those opposite rode the wrecking ball, smashing the economy on the way up and catching anyone they missed on the way back down. I am pleased to make the point that our government has delivered a better economy for Queenslanders.

Unfortunately, the members opposite had another focus. I will start where the member for Condamine ended. The member for Condamine seems to be a very fine gentleman, but a heavy hitter he is not. This allegation—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DICK: I think I am being quite fair to the member for Condamine.

Dr Miles: Very generous.

Mr DICK: I take the interjection from the Minister for Health: very generous.

I say to the members opposite that the estimates process was designed primarily to allow the opposition to question ministers on matters pertaining to the state budget and portfolio areas. It is an important component of the way our democracy operates by subjecting the government to the scrutiny of the parliament to account for the expenditure of public money. If there were a gold medal for whingeing and moaning, those members opposite would be at the top of the dais in every possible competition. Unfortunately, only half of the committee fulfilled its compact with the people of Queensland. The member for Glass House, as the shadow minister and the most senior representative of the opposition present, should reflect not only on the lost opportunity to appropriately participate in this important process but also on the opposition's lazy and incoherent strategy. The only disgrace, taking the words of the member for Condamine, was the approach the opposition took to the estimates committee process.

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Mr DICK: There was no effort at all made by those members opposite on the committee to discover the effectiveness of government programs, which I am pleased to inform the House have yielded outstanding results. There was just an immature and meandering attempt at gotcha politics which quickly transformed into an exploding cigar. Frankly, the LNP members of the committee demonstrated they have learnt nothing from their defeat in 2015 and the period of opposition that has followed. The bulk of the questioning that emanated from the member for Glass House, the member for Buderim and the member for Condamine was principally focused on the timing of projects under the Building our Regions program—projects that involved co-funding from the state government and local government, many of them in small regional council areas that are supposed to be LNP heartland. These are the communities the LNP claim to represent, yet there they were at estimates bullying those councils and those communities.

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): One moment, member for Woodridge. Member for Buderim, you have been constantly interjecting. Your interjections are not being taken. You have done so not only with this speaker but with several others today. If you continue down that road, you will be warned under standing orders.

Mr DICK: There were the LNP members bullying those councils and communities in rural Queensland because they were too slow to complete programs, despite them having to deal with things like natural disasters including Cyclone Debbie. When they were not being insensitive they were simply getting it wrong. One such example was when the member for Glass House asked me why the upgrade to the Mackay showgrounds, a project delivered on budget and ahead of schedule, was delivered over budget and late. That was the best question we got from the member for Glass House. It was another example of either laziness or incompetence, although having seen the honourable member for Glass House perform in this House, I think it was probably both.

There was even a question about pork-barrelling in favour of Mackay over Toowoomba regarding the Qantas regional pilot training facility—immediately denounced by community leaders in both cities and utterly without foundation. The member for Glass House and the member for Condamine then thought it would be a good idea to repeat the same baseless claim in a media conference, putting the whole Queensland bid at risk by trying to foment conflict and disunity. One can only imagine what Qantas thinks about Queensland when they see those members opposite decrying the process. The accident-prone member for Glass House thinks the way to make a name in politics is through reckless bravado. I have a word of advice for him: there is no substitute for hard work, something we have not seen from the member for Glass House.

It is a sad indictment on the LNP that they have nothing positive to say about regional Queensland, they have no plans and no ideas. I thank the government members including the member for Bancroft, the committee chair, for their work on the committee. They at least sought answers—

(Time expired)