




Speech By
Christopher Whiting

MEMBER FOR BANCROFT

Record of Proceedings, 22 August 2018

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL

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

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (12.09 pm): I rise to speak to the report from the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee. I want to start by thanking all the members of the committee, including the member for Ipswich West and the member for Mount Ommaney, for their thoughtful work. I also thank the secretariat. I want to thank the LNP members of the committee—the members for Condamine, Bundaberg and Buderim. I wish they had the chance to ask more questions during the committee hearings as well. I am sure they would have been able to ask questions that did align with standing orders, as compared to some of their shadow ministers.

I want to discuss three areas that I think are well worthy of note in this report. One of those is the Sustainable Fisheries Strategy which was outlined by the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries. The committee heard that great progress has been made on that strategy, with one-third of the strategy's actions completed in the first 12 months. That includes the employment of 12 more compliance officers in this particular unit and the reopening of the Gladstone Boating and Fisheries Patrol office. This is a great outcome from this strategy. There is also new biological monitoring.

We also heard about the proposed reforms to modernise Queensland's fisheries laws, which includes stronger compliance powers and stronger penalties for seafood black marketing. It is clear from what we heard in this committee that we are getting some strong leadership in this area from the minister, and we thank him for that. It is clear from the report that we are seeing those better outcomes for our fisheries and those companies involved in our fisheries.

One of the other issues I want to chat about is the great work that this government is doing under the Minister for State Development. We heard about those signature programs that are helping drive Queensland manufacturing and Queensland jobs and how well they are working. For example, we heard about Made in Queensland. This is a program that was massively oversubscribed by Queensland companies, with 662 applications for the matched funding pool of \$20 million. We heard that 53 companies received grants, with an anticipated 532 jobs to be created.

It was also good to hear that we are investing \$14.3 million in four Building our Regions projects in the electorate of Condamine. I know the member for Condamine would have been glad to hear about the 94 jobs which are anticipated to be created from these programs. We heard about the internet broadband submarine cable and the Rheinmetall Land 400 contract to build those new generation Boxer combat reconnaissance vehicles at Ipswich.

One thing that got our attention was when the Minister for State Development talked about craft brewing, and I want to thank the minister for his leadership in this area. Craft beer production has an estimated worth of about \$62 million per year. An extra 17 craft brewers have opened their doors in the past year alone in Queensland. More than 13 per cent of our independent brewers are based here in

Queensland. This has a great potential for tourism in Queensland, like our wine tourism. We are going to back the entrepreneurs in this space and help them by looking at the regulatory arrangements so they can pave the way to grow their businesses. We learnt from the estimates how the Palaszczuk government is actively building Queensland industry and Queensland jobs.

The third issue I want to mention briefly is in relation to the Minister for Natural Resources, and I thank him for his appearance before the committee. It would be of no surprise to know that we talked about vegetation management, and I have to say that it was a very average performance by the LNP with their questioning on this matter. They really did not like what they were being told. We heard that, under our laws, the agricultural sector has thrived and grown by about \$2 billion, and that more than one million hectares of Queensland's best agricultural land could be developed for cropping under the laws we passed. That land is category X on property maps. That means no clearing of regulated vegetation is required to significantly expand the cropping in Queensland. The minister informed us that, once landholders hear about our balanced vegetation management laws, people out there will realise how they are being misled by the LNP. We are about clearing the air on their misinformation.

(Time expired)