




Speech By
Linus Power

MEMBER FOR LOGAN

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APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL

Economics and Governance Committee, Report

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (6.06 pm): I rise to endorse report No. 11 of the Economics and Governance Committee titled *2018-19 budget estimates—Appropriation Bill 2018*. The Economics and Governance Committee has portfolio responsibility for the Premier and Cabinet, Trade, Treasury, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs. I thank the committee members for their participation and the other members participating, including the members for Nanango, Everton, Moggill, Warrego, Surfers Paradise, Maiwar and Noosa. We certainly were popular, member for Mermaid Beach.

I thank the many public servants who made themselves available. Much has been made in the media of the media not finding the sensational issues they wished to find to create sensational stories. However, I think this misses much of the detail and interesting answers to both opposition and government questions. It also forgets the hard work by both the department and the ministers to be prepared and ready for all sorts of questions and prepared to be accountable in public to all sorts of issues to do with the budget expenditure.

Opposition members interjected.

Mrs Frecklington: You couldn't ask questions! You couldn't get it together! You can't get on your high horse now.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, those on my left!

Mr POWER: I thank the member for Nanango for her compliments about my chairing. The estimates is a bit like an iceberg in that 90 per cent of the questions that ministers and public servants prepare for do not actually get asked, but they know they might have to account for every dollar. Some might not find this process that riveting, but it is a vital part of the accountability of the executive to the parliament through the committee process.

Finally, I thank the Premier, Anastacia Palaszczuk, the Deputy Premier and the Minister for Racing, Local Government and Multicultural Affairs for appearing before our committee and our many guest members. I do note that the full report of the Economics and Governance Committee ran to 111 pages. I am advised that of the questions, 122 were asked by the opposition, which was 67 per cent of the questions, while the government put 63 questions—although they were of a very high calibre—which was 32 per cent of the questions. The member for Maiwar put eight questions, around four per cent, and the member for Noosa put one question, representing about one per cent. In total there were 194 questions put to ministers. The answers, as I said, gave us a lot of detail about the budget. There are 111 pages. I am sure all members have read each page individually. I know the member for Whitsunday hung on page 110 a lot.

As part of my endorsement of the report I would like to bring forward a couple of highlights. When the Premier appeared before the committee I put a question to her about the objective of creating jobs, particularly referencing Advance Queensland and how that is contributing to the objective. The Premier answered in some detail about the total funding that we have put to be now over \$650 million and in this year an extra \$40 million for the Business Development Fund and \$60 million for the Industry Attraction Fund. Especially worthwhile is the \$50 million for the Innovation portfolio. As we all know, this government is all about jobs and creating innovative jobs. To that end it is important that Queensland takes a key stake in our defence industries. We saw the landing of the contract by Rheinmetall to build the Land 400 and its Boxer next generation Army reconnaissance vehicles right here in Queensland. They are good vehicles and they will be a credit to Ipswich.

The Treasurer spoke about strong population growth and investment in our local area. Particularly important was a question put by the member for Everton where he asked about our fiscal position. I appreciated the answer from the Treasurer which went into great detail about our fiscal position and how it was so much better than at the end of the Newman years. I commend the report and these answers to the House.