



Speech By  
**Ray Stevens**


**MEMBER FOR MERMAID BEACH**

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Record of Proceedings, 21 August 2018

**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL**

**Economics and Governance Committee, Report**

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (5.57 pm): I rise to speak to the report of the Economics and Governance Committee on the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2018. It is a very timely and important expose of the budgetary expenditure of the Parliamentary Service. During the estimates committee hearing, we were advised of the expenditure in relation to the structure of the House. The committee also received a report on staffing matters. That gave a very good insight into the efficient and effective way in which the Parliamentary Service deals with all members regardless of political persuasion.

The committee also asked questions about the 150th celebrations of this wonderful edifice in Queensland, this pre-eminent heritage building in Queensland. I think it would be fair to say that it has to receive the expenditure to maintain it. We are aware of the work that has been done to the stonework. The majority of that work has been completed.

Another issue that was raised during the grilling of the Speaker and the Clerk of the Parliament was the importance of ensuring that expenditure in relation to travel and the promotion of the parliament were appropriate for the Office of the Speaker and the staff involved in carrying out the effective delivery of the Parliamentary Service to help other countries in terms of developing procedures. The CPA is a major organisation that supports South Pacific nations. There was expenditure in relation to some travel by staff of the Speaker's office. The Speaker kindly justified that expenditure and how it is to the benefit of the parliament.

The Parliamentary Service is keen to receive more expenditure for the upgrade of certain parts of the parliamentary precinct that have fallen behind through time marching on. Although the Parliamentary Annexe lives in a time warp, the refurbishment of the seventh floor has been a major accomplishment of the Parliamentary Service. It is now a very welcome area that is utilised by many sectors of our community. The fairly large expenditure that was involved in bringing that part of the Parliamentary Annexe into the 21st century is justified.

From our perspective, as a result of the very hard and pointed grilling of the Speaker's office and the Parliamentary Services, we found that they had expended their budget lines adequately and that they had budgeted for an appropriate increase for the year ahead that we will be monitoring very closely through the Economics and Governance Committee. All in all, we are pleased to support the passing of the budget for the Parliamentary Services for the year ahead.

I thank very much Trudy Struber and wish her well in her new occupation in government. She did a great job for the secretariat and we could not recommend her highly enough. Whilst we will miss her, I am sure Melissa will do a great job. It was a wonderful job by the secretariat. We thank them for the good advice they provided to all the members of that committee.