



Speech By  
**Shane King**


**MEMBER FOR KURWONGBAH**

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Record of Proceedings, 22 August 2018

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

**Transport and Public Works Committee, Report**

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (3.05 pm): I rise today to speak to the estimates report tabled by the Transport and Public Works Committee for the Appropriation Bill 2018. For the record, our whole committee agreed to the times, the order and the overall conditions for the examination of each portfolio area. We started the day with transport, road safety and ports and finished off with public works, housing, digital technology and sport. I would like to thank all committee members: deputy chair, Ted Sorensen, and committee members Bart Mellish, Jo-Ann Miller, Colin Boyce and Robbie Katter for their participation on the day—and I will say a bit more about that later.

I would like to again thank the ministers, their staff, the directors-general, their departments and the 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, and I would also like to thank them for their participation. My thanks go to Hansard and attendant staff and also to the Transport and Public Works Committee secretariat for their hard work in preparing for the day and their work on the day. To Deb, Margaret, Mishelle and Lyn: thank you all very much.

As I said before, we started with the examination of main roads, road safety and ports, and I will talk about some of the highlights. We secured Australian government investment to progress the delivery of priorities on the Bruce Highway, as per our futureproofing the Bruce election commitments. As the minister stated, our government would like to see this joint funding increase from the current \$850 million a year to \$1 billion a year. The Bruce Highway Trust is designed to take the politics out of some of the Bruce Highway funding, and it was disappointing to learn that the LNP federal government has removed some funding from the Bruce Highway contingency fund and spent it elsewhere. This is not a good precedent to set, but who knows what is going to happen with the current state of the LNP government in Canberra from day to day?

We heard about the continued construction of the \$1.14 billion Queensland and Australian government funded Gateway Upgrade North project. Residents in my area are keenly watching this as it stands to make their daily commute much quicker when complete. We had an update on the completion of the Boundary Road interchange project, which clarified once again that it was the Palaszczuk government which funded the state component of this vital piece of infrastructure and oversaw its construction and early completion, much to the delight of locals as well as businesses like Costco. It was good to refresh our memories on this project, as a recent LNP candidate for Longman was claiming this project as his own and Queenslanders do deserve to know the truth.

We also heard that Dakabin station, which I now share with my neighbour, Steven Miles, the member for Murrumba, will receive extra funding for additional car parking during the long-awaited disability upgrade to the station. I was particularly pleased to hear the answer from the minister about the Petrie roundabout in my area which desperately needs upgrading and has been funded during this budget. With the university project coming along, this upgrade has never been more important.

The inevitable questions about train driver recruitment were asked. Once again, we heard the former LNP government suspended driver recruitment, with more than 1,700 jobs cut from Queensland Rail, including driver trainers, during the dark days in office of the LNP. We heard recruitment of new drivers is going well and we are running more services now than the LNP government ever did. I would like to thank the member for Chatsworth for his considered questions and professionalism on the day, unlike some of his colleagues.

The next line of questioning was particularly disappointing to me, with the member for Surfers Paradise appearing to reanimate the attack on our government regarding the signage at Suncorp Stadium, which was proposed to honour a former member of this House and former deputy premier of Queensland, an attack which caused considerable pain to the family of the former member. Despite the member's assertions that this was not the case, I believe otherwise, as the prepared stunt pulled during this session by the member for Callide highlighted that this attack was staged. I think the member for Callide is better than this and would want to be remembered for more than just using a prop to help dishonour a former member of this House as his only contribution for the day. Members of our committee do deserve better and should have been allowed to participate fully on the day rather than being shoved aside or used as stooges by the shadow ministers.

The final session on Housing and Public Works consisted of the member for Burleigh casting more aspersions than asking questions. I have to say the highlight was when he tabled a photograph from social media of the minister on a bench rugged up in warm clothes and attempted to say he was shaming the poor. The minister then explained about the CEO sleep-out and how that photo was taken when he played his part in supporting it. He invited the member for Burleigh to participate with him at a future time. It was a rather large own goal from the shadow minister that stood out amongst other attempted attacks that were answered well by Minister de Brenni. In relation to timing, non-government members got a considerably larger share of the time allotted—actually 51 minutes longer than government members. I commend the report to the House.