



Speech By  
**Hon. Cameron Dick**

**MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE**

---

Record of Proceedings, 20 August 2019


**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL**

**APPROPRIATION BILL**

**Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)**

**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) (2.59 pm): I would like to thank members of the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee for their work over the past 12 months and for the report they produced following their examination of the proposed expenditure for the 2019-20 financial year for the portfolios of state development, manufacturing, infrastructure and planning.

For every rule there is often an exception. In this case the exception is the LNP's statement of reservation, tacked onto the end of the committee's report. It turned up like an unwelcome guest at the end of a party, just as the chairs were being stacked. What a miserable and inept contribution it was by the LNP members of that committee. Their rambling about infrastructure showed they have no understanding of the value of infrastructure. Their whining about state development areas showed they have no grasp of the purpose or the planning needs of state development areas. Their attack on the fire levy showed they have no sense of its history, purpose or importance.

The estimates process provides an opportunity for members of the parliamentary committee to test the budget of the government of the day, to interrogate its programs and priorities, to weigh its objectives and allocations against the public interest, and to ensure that ministers are discharging their responsibilities in a way that delivers solid outcomes and value for money. I thank the government members not only for their conscientious contribution to the estimates process but also for what they do on that committee. That compliment cannot be extended to the whole committee. The LNP members of the committee brought to that process the same obdurate negativity that characterises the performance of those opposite in this House every time the parliament sits. Under the leadership of the member for Nanango, the opposition has mired itself in a swamp of negativity—no contribution but to complain, no response but to attack, no instinct but to oppose for its own sake, irrespective of the policy and benefit that might be delivered to Queenslanders. They are like hamsters in a wheel—unable to escape and going nowhere.

I must make special mention of the contribution made by the member for Glass House. He sat at the table like Perry Mason, firing off his cross-examination with all the effectiveness of every other contribution he has ever made in the parliament—questions asked in the wrong section of the estimates

session; questions asked of the wrong area of the portfolio; questions that were irrelevant, repetitious and unclear. Nearly every question was directed to the Public Service and almost none to the minister responsible.

LNP members love to talk about how they are holding the Labor government to account but, given the opportunity, they could manage to direct to me only four questions in I think three hours. One of those was from the member for Buderim, who asked me what I was the minister for. He did not even have to ask the question; he could have just read the sign in front of me.

**Mr Mickelberg:** You don't do infrastructure. You don't do Cross River Rail. What do you do?

**Mr DICK:** There he goes, the member for Buderim. I have set him off. It was the worst performance by opposition members of a parliamentary committee that I can recall since I was the attorney-general and the then shadow attorney-general, Lawrence Springborg, came into the estimates hearing—this is the person they ran three times to be premier of Queensland—and named someone in a witness protection program. He asked me a question naming someone in a witness protection program. That is what he did. You might have been there, Deputy Speaker McArdle. Thankfully, we scrubbed the record clean to protect that person.

This was the worst performance I had seen in 10 years, but it is symptomatic of the general malaise affecting the opposition. Lack of direction in the estimates hearing reflects the lack of direction in their leadership. They have no plan, no vision and no agenda—just a single objection and obsession with whining, relentless negativity. Fortunately, Queenslanders have put their faith in Annastacia Palaszczuk and the Queensland Labor Party. I am proud of everything we have achieved in the Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning since I have had the privilege to serve. I thank the department for their professionalism and for the work they do for Queensland every day—building an economy of optimism and opportunity for Queensland. We are not just the Sunshine State; we are the sunrise state, building those new industries and those new jobs that Queenslanders deserve.