



Speech By
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MEMBER FOR JORDAN

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APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation Bill

Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee, Report

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (2.15 pm): It is a pleasure to speak on the Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee's report. As a committee member, I welcome the estimates process, the opportunity to delve into the Service Delivery Statements of the relevant departments and to directly ask questions of the responsible ministers, yet it would seem those opposite do not necessarily always want to hear what the ministers have to say. Unlike the mistruths, which those opposite spew out on a daily basis, the numbers do not lie. The facts are there in black and white and they are worth repeating. For example, we know that in the last year 2.7 million international tourists spent, for the very first time, a record \$6 billion in Queensland, which is up 8.6 per cent. More Australian travellers, some 24.6 million, spent around \$18.5 billion here in Queensland. For the first time in a decade, our tourism market share is growing faster than that of New South Wales and Victoria.

Those opposite must hate seeing those figures because they know that, in comparison, their record when it came to tourism growth was woeful. In fact, under the Newman government tourism completely flatlined. They must hate knowing that the Palaszczuk government has made a record investment in the sector, especially when they ripped \$188 million out of the tourism budget when they were in government. It must be terrible to know that when our government came to power the state's events calendar was worth around \$380 million and that today it is well in excess of \$800 million. It must be horrible for those opposite to see that more than \$700 million in new hotels and resorts have opened in the last 12 months, with more than \$14 billion of tourism infrastructure in the pipeline. It must be horrible for them to know that only this Labor government is backing tourism because we recognise this industry is creating jobs not only in South-East Queensland but right across the state. No wonder the member for Broadwater always looks so sad.

The jobs keep coming. Through our whole-of-government Advance Queensland programs we have already supported more than 16,400 jobs, with almost half of these in regional Queensland. Those opposite did not want to hear that and they certainly did not want to know that one of the world's largest companies, Google, has chosen Queensland to launch its very first drone delivery service, Wing Aviation. They did not want to know that Queensland has staked out a leadership position in the advancement of drone technology, because our government has led the charge by releasing a drone strategy for our state. That must be so tough to hear.

They should not despair because the shadow minister for innovation and digital technology is all over this Google caper! The member for Burleigh has now turned up to the estimates hearings two years in a row with his gotcha question lined up, which always seems to involve some late-night googling. This year it was all about finding the old Myriad Festival website clearly marked with 2018 dates and loudly proclaiming that people could still look at booking a ticket to it. 'Gotcha, Minister. Why didn't you take the website down?' I thought the minister was extremely patient in explaining that the Queensland government does not own the Myriad website and that in Queensland we have actually all moved on now with our very own QODE Brisbane festival. Also, people could not purchase a ticket.

It was almost as good as last year's gotcha moment when the member for Burleigh googled 'department of innovation Queensland', went to an out-of-date website and claimed he could not find Minister Jones as the relevant minister. 'Gotcha!' One minute later and up she popped on the department's actual website. Thanks for nothing, member for Burleigh.

Something those opposite particularly do not like hearing are the words 'climate change', 'science' and 'facts'. They heard a lot of that in our estimates hearing because we as a government absolutely accept the science on climate change, which is why we have continued to lead climate change action, investing more than \$70 million in initiatives in the forward years with more than \$17 million in this year's budget. Why would they listen to fact and reason when they can attack science and scientists?

As the minister said, there is a clear, concerted attack on science in this state. It started with a simple—and I mean very simple—motion at the LNP state conference which recommended Queensland create an office of science quality assurance. The ability to pick and choose the scientific evidence that will be accepted and ignored depending on your political agenda—well that is just great stuff!

It is clear that those opposite did not see page 23 of the SDS, which shows that the Palaszczuk government spent close to \$88 million on science last year including research, staffing and, most importantly, quality assurance. Why let the facts get in the way of the tin foil hat brigade? The extreme right takeover of the LNP is complete! I thank ministers Jones and Enoch for laying out the budget facts within their respective portfolios. It is difficult for some to hear and understand, but it is an important process. I commend the committee's report and thank all involved in this year's estimates hearings.