



Speech By
Colin Boyce

MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

Record of Proceedings, 21 August 2019


APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation Bill

Transport and Public Works Committee, Report

 **Mr BOYCE** (Callide—LNP) (12.08 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill, the Appropriation Bill and report No. 24 of the Transport and Public Works Committee. Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the member for Kurwongbah's contribution. He is absolutely right: this year's estimates hearing was a little different from last year's hearings. There was absolutely no need for me to try to measure anything. As far as the integrity, transparency and accountability of the Palaszczuk government goes, it is impossible to measure, because it does not exist. There is none. It is zero.

The Treasurer has delivered a budget that delivers tax, tax, tax and more and more debt. The Treasurer is far more interested in her own personal gain than ensuring that the business of Queensland is managed effectively and efficiently so that ordinary Queenslanders can prosper. The Treasurer is more interested in her own prosperity and the Premier is powerless and weak. There is no indication that the Premier will take action and sack the Treasurer for a clear breach of ministerial rules—

Mr BAILEY: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member is way off the budget and the estimates process that we are here to debate. I urge him to get back onto the topic that we are debating.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Pugh): Your point of order is relevance?

Mr BAILEY: Yes.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Callide, the minister has pointed out that you are indeed way off topic. I would ask you to come back to the title of what we are debating.

Mr BOYCE: Thank you for your guidance. These topics are covered in the statement of reservation that we have submitted which are included in the report. As I was saying, the Minister for Transport and Main Roads has been delegated responsibility for relevant legislation in regard to the Cross River Rail project because of the Labor integrity crisis. However, the Transport and Public Works Committee were disallowed from examining and asking questions in relation to this project, the chairman ruling that this was not within the jurisdiction of the committee. I ask: are we to see more mangocube emails?

In estimates hearings I asked a question of Mr Neil Scales, the director-general of Main Roads, in relation to ongoing works and upgrades of the Warrego Highway between Dalby and Miles in the Callide electorate. The problem is that significant sections of completed new highway are failing and

are less than 12 months old. I wanted to know who was responsible, who oversees this work and who is going to pay for it. I felt the reply from Mr Scales was inadequate. Whilst he is aware of the problems he said that the contractors would ultimately be responsible. I know at least one major contractor who has completed significant work on this road and now is insolvent and has been wound up. I would ask: how do you get blood out of a stone?

It was revealed in estimates hearings that the estimated value of the backlog of main roads maintenance has risen to \$5.312 billion as at 30 June 2018. It seems we will easily achieve the projected \$9 billion shortfall in coming years that the Auditor-General has identified in his report. I worry that if this problem is not addressed with significant monetary funding we will see road deterioration escalate significantly in coming years and then the repair bill will also multiply exponentially.

In relation to housing and public works, it was disappointing to learn that the government is yet to enter into new agreements with the Commonwealth in regard to remote and Indigenous housing, the previous national partnership having expired 12 months ago. This is not surprising as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnerships is the domain of the Deputy Premier and she is more interested in her own housing investments rather than those of our most vulnerable people. It is time for those opposite to demand she was sacked because the Premier will not do it, she is too weak. For me, overall the estimates process was once again disappointing.