



Speech By
Corrine McMillan

MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 21 August 2019


APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation Bill

Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, Report

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (11.44 am): I thank all members who attended the committee hearing, although we know that once again some found it difficult to ask relevant questions pertaining to the budget. As an educator, I understand the importance of asking good questions in order to be afforded the answers one seeks. The 2019 winner for 'inability to choreograph or rephrase questions to reflect the standing orders' must be the member for Toowoomba North. Further, I felt professionally empathetic and embarrassed for the opposition members of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee as they were continually denied the opportunity to ask questions by their self-assured, learned scholar colleagues.

Estimates is a necessary process allowing all members of parliament, in particular the non-government members, to question members of the executive and senior public servants on the array of positive programs and initiatives being delivered by the Palaszczuk government. Transparency and accountability are the hallmark of good government, and I am proud to be a member of this Palaszczuk government. Estimates provides members opportunities to explore areas of government spending, and the facts speak for themselves. On review of *Hansard* and on a rough calculation of questions, I have been advised that government members asked 50 questions and non-government members asked 132. This means that 27.47 per cent of questions were asked by the government and 72.52 per cent of questions were asked by non-government members.

I see firsthand in my community the record investments in police and the benefits of the expenditure noted during the estimates process—cutting-edge technology, new body worn cameras for every first responder police officer, QLITE devices, tasers, automatic numberplate recognition software, two brand-new high-performance vehicles, a flexible, agile and world-class leading borderless policing model and, of course, the new Wishart Road Crash Rescue Support Training Facility based at the Wishart Fire Station. I take this opportunity to thank the large number of public servants who prepared the comprehensive briefs for ministers and senior officials on all matters relating to the Palaszczuk government's budget.

As a long-term employee with the Public Service, I am well aware of the degree of rigour that exists regarding the expenditure of public money—as there should be. As elected officials, we should strive every day to ensure that public money is expended for the benefit of all Queenslanders. Of course, the estimates process is a vital process to allow all members, in particular non-government members,

to hold the government to account. Finally, I thank the Attorney-General, ministers Ryan and Crawford and their officials for their leadership, professionalism and commitment to the estimates process. I commend the Palaszczuk government's budget and the report to the House.