



Speech By  
**David Janetzki**

**MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH**

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Record of Proceedings, 20 August 2019


## **APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL**

### **APPROPRIATION BILL**

#### **Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)**

#### **Appropriation Bill**

#### **Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, Report**

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (4.42 pm): The words that I would like to start with in my contribution to the estimates debate today are ‘unusual’, ‘unwise’ and ‘unfortunate’. They are not the words of the LNP opposition; they are the words of the chair of the CCC when reflecting on the phone call to him by the Deputy Premier on the Sunday afternoon—unusual, unwise and unfortunate. Certainly, the first couple of hours of the estimates hearing of the legal affairs committee were entirely avoidable—had the Treasurer not bought a property so close to Cross River Rail and then not sought to make a phone call to the chair of the CCC on that fateful Sunday afternoon.

The Deputy Premier and Treasurer should never have bought the property in the first place. We know that. That has been well established. However, to make that phone call on that Sunday afternoon, as the chair of the CCC said, was extremely unwise, unfortunate and unusual. There are so many questions now that the Deputy Premier and Treasurer must answer. It remains under assessment. That day the chair of the CCC commented on the self-referral by the Deputy Premier and Treasurer in that it would assist in the timely assessment of the matter. Now, nearly a month on, we still await an assessment from the CCC.

I also note the member for Kawana’s earlier contribution, when he commented on the file note. The file note, as conveniently tabled, addressed a number of the key problems, but this was a conversation that the chair of the CCC said during estimates was not worthy of a file note given its insignificance. If this phone call were not even worthy of a file note for the CCC chair but of such comprehensiveness for the Treasurer and Deputy Premier in that it answered all the unanswered questions, questions remain absolutely in play. The Deputy Premier and Treasurer has a great deal to answer. We await the CCC’s assessment, the results of which will be intriguing.

I want to spend a little time on watch houses, because what we saw when questioning the child safety and youth justice minister, the member for Bulimba, was that there was a series of questions that the minister would really avoid. She did not say what she observed. She did not say what she thought of the circumstances she saw when she went and visited watch houses. During the questioning of the Attorney-General we saw the frankly farcical display of the Public Guardian in the gallery being ready to stand up and speak to the circumstances that she witnessed in watch houses, but it was the farcical display from the Attorney-General that forced the Public Guardian to remain quiet. This went on for some time—an hour to an hour and a half—until there was a flurry of yellow post-it notes among her

staff behind her. The message must have come in: stop shielding, stop cloaking this supposed transparent process of estimates behind this protective veil. The Public Guardian was there and was being refused the opportunity to speak. It was a shameful display from the Attorney-General.

When the Public Guardian finally came to the table to answer questions, I was forced to ask the question through the director-general. I was forced to ask questions about what the Public Guardian recollected and saw via the director-general or through the Attorney-General, who were shielding the Public Guardian from a public display of what she knew and saw. It was a shameful display from the Attorney-General and the Labor government for which they ought be condemned.