



Speech By
Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Record of Proceedings, 21 August 2019


APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation Bill

Education, Employment and Small Business Committee, Report

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (3.00 pm): The Minister for Education wants to know why the director-general was asked questions and not the minister. There are two reasons: one, the minister would not know the answer; secondly, we want straight answers. I will give an example. The education minister is always squawking in this place about federal government funding cuts for education. We know that is not true, but she always says that the federal government is cutting funding to education. The director-general confirmed that Prime Minister Scott Morrison's government is increasing funding to education in this state.

The education minister says that she is going to write to the chair of the committee about an alleged sexual assault that took place at a school. The minister confirmed the age and the gender of the students involved. If I were the minister, I would be very careful about writing letters about who identified whom. I did not mention the age or gender of anyone involved.

Ms Grace: Yes, you did. Read the transcript.

Mr BLEIJIE: No, I did not. The Queensland Council of Unions and the Queensland Teachers' Union have said that politics has no place on our school gates and fences. I table photos of schools being politicised by the Fair Funding Now union campaign.

Tabled paper: Bundle of photographs depicting 'Fair Funding Now' signs on state schools [1310](#).

I also table copy of a Redcliffe State High School's Facebook page showing Fair Funding Now.

Tabled paper: Extract, undated, from the Facebook page of the Redcliffe State High School in relation to QTU Fair Funding Now campaign [1311](#).

It is happening and yet the director-general said it is not political. Members can look at the Fair Funding Now website. Don't tell me it is not political. Of course it is.

The member for Mansfield has been whingeing about poor consultation by the education department. I table a copy of a Facebook post from the member for Mansfield in which she said that changes have been happening without community consultation. Labor members are complaining about their own government.

Tabled paper: Extract, dated 16 October, from the Facebook page of the member for Mansfield, Ms Corrine McMillan MP, in relation to changes to catchment area for Mansfield State High School [1312](#).

As I said, federal government funding has increased. During last year's budget estimates hearing, the education minister asked us where we will get the money to fund our air-conditioning policy. She said, 'You don't need extra funding; you don't need air conditioning.' However, the budget they handed down contains an extra \$100 million for air conditioning, because they know our policy is hurting the government. They know our policy is great. They know our policy is supported—

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms McMillan): Order! Members, I appreciate there is a fair bit of topical debate. However, calm it a little bit.

Mr BLEIJIE: They know our policies are hurting them, because students and teachers want air conditioning in every state school and only the LNP government will deliver that air conditioning.

We have seen the new Inner City South State Secondary College, to be built right in the heart of the electorate of the Deputy Premier, get special treatment. I have always wondered why the Deputy Premier was taking a special interest in that particular catchment area with the press releases she was putting out about that school. Little did we know then, although we have since found out, that the school will be just a stone's throw away—just a skip away—from the new investment property that the Deputy Premier's family trust has bought and that will benefit from the uplift generated by the Inner City South State Secondary College. Then we found out that neither the education minister nor staff from her department showed up to the Cabinet Budget Review Committee that gave the final approval to the Inner City South State Secondary College. But who was there? The Treasurer was there! Did the Treasurer disclose the interest that she had in a property that is located just a stone's throw away—just a skip away—from the school zone? I doubt it.

I refer to Independent Public Schools. The minister refused to take on notice a question about whether this government had written to the federal government asking for an extension for the Independent Public Schools program and we know why. It is because they did not.

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Ms Grace interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. Can we stop the cross-chamber chatter, member for Chatsworth and member for McConnel. Member for Chatsworth, your interjections are not being taken.

Mr BLEIJIE: We know that the Independent Public Schools program had an extension under the agreement, but the government did not bother writing to ask for an extension for the Independent Public Schools program. It is a great policy. I can say that the LNP will continue the Independent Public Schools program after the next election.

The program to place solar panels on schools was meant to be rolled out a year ago, but the director-general decided not to put solar panels on roofs. That was another bungle by this minister who has had bungle after bungle. Let us not forget that she was the minister who had to make 200 amendments to her racing bill. She always blames the former minister, Minister Hinchliffe, but we know that she was the one who moved the amendments.

Finally, I turn to industrial relations. We now know that the Crime and Corruption Commission is investigating the Office of Industrial Relations. This minister's office is under investigation by the Crime and Corruption Commission for collusion between the CFMMEU and the Office of Workplace Health and Safety. However, they will not tell us why. They refused to answer our questions, but we saw it in an ABC report.

Finally, Jacki Power, who used to be Jacqueline O'Mara from the Shepherdson inquiry—a self-confessed electoral fraudster—is now sitting on the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission. That was a shameful appointment. She should not have been appointed and she should not have accepted the role.

(Time expired)