



Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY

Record of Proceedings, 20 August 2019


APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation Bill

**State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development
Committee, Report**

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (3.27 pm): How fun is estimates! Certainly, the contributions of the previous members would reflect that. I always like to say that an estimates hearing is like question time on steroids. Last year, I had the pleasure of bringing in a community group to observe an estimates hearing firsthand. I think it is a great opportunity—and an underrated one—for our communities to see the nuts and bolts of how this place operates.

At the outset, I thank the many departmental staff and ministerial staff who put so much effort into preparing for the day to ensure that all of the questions could be answered and that no questions had to be taken on notice. I think that is really commendable. Estimates hearings are so important for our democracy, especially with Queensland having a unicameral parliament. I also place on record my thanks to the residents and businesses of the Mount Ommaney electorate who have written to me, met with me and visited with me over the last year, giving me plenty of inspiration for my questions.

Today I want to talk about jobs and specifically jobs in the resource sector and, more specifically, in my fantastic electorate, the wonderful community of Mount Ommaney. My electorate is home to 3,500 jobs in the resource sector across a variety of different areas. In attending the friends of resources industry event last night, it was great to hear about the connections that are being made between the gas industry and the agricultural industry. The resources sector is a massive jobs creator and I am very grateful that so many Mount Ommaney electorate residents are finding employment in this sector.

Although jobs are important, so is safety. That is why the mine safety reset has been so important. I know that over the weekend Minister Lynham attended the mine safety reset conference on the Gold Coast, because no family should have to go through the agony experienced by families, friends and co-workers when there is a death in the workplace. That is why the Palaszczuk government is conducting two reviews into fatalities, examining the efficacy of current legislation, employing three new inspectors and considering additional workplace protections.

Finally, on the day of the estimates hearing we had some fun with Minister Furner—the farmer's friend—the minister for agriculture, learning more about food, fibre and all things agri-delicious.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PUGH: Those opposite will like this next one: we heard today about a statement of reservation from the LNP. The only reservation I am interested in is one at our great Queensland eateries. The new #eatqld campaign has given Queensland diners an easy way to promote the local provenance of the delicious and delightful produce they are already enjoying in Queensland restaurants and eateries. Whether it is the beautiful Sunny Coast strawberries, the Kalbar carrots or the bananas from the Cassowary Coast, there is lots to enjoy. I would, however, like to place on record my disappointment that there was no prop basket of snacks this year from the minister's office and I trust that will be rectified next year—no strawberries for me!

As the former manager at Restaurant II, which featured Queensland produce proudly in every single dish, I was beyond excited to hear about Minister de Brenni's new Queensland government food and supply directory as part of the Buy Queensland program when I visited the Ekka with Minister Furner last week to enjoy a classic strawberry sundae. I know that for local businesses like Gutsy Ferments based in Darra but sourcing Queensland produce from all over Queensland it is going to make it easier than ever for amazing local producers to get in contact with food retailers and vice versa.

Indeed, a few weeks ago at the behest of Minister Dick's office I visited the office of 17 Rocks Chocolate, another family owned business selling a truly world-class product. Previously, for eateries to find out about a local product it might go something like it did in our family, which was, 'Hey dad, did you know right up the road from your house is one of the best chocolate manufacturers in the state?', and dad, being not only a smart man but the executive chef of the Convention Centre, goes off, checks it out and absolutely loves it. This will give that kind of exposure to all Queensland producers. As someone from a hospitality background, with amazing food manufacturers like Majans in my electorate, which produces the Bhujia snacks that we all buy in Woolies—I am so proud—this is wonderful news for Queensland venues.

There is a lot to like in this budget for food and that is great news if you are a foodie, a food manufacturer or a small business manager like I used to be. When it comes to produce you cannot beat Queensland so get on board and eat Queensland!