



Speech By
Linus Power

MEMBER FOR LOGAN

Record of Proceedings, 20 August 2019


APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation (Parliament) Bill

Economics and Governance Committee, Report

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (11.15 am): I rise to endorse report No. 30 of the Economics and Governance Committee titled *2019-20 Budget estimates—Appropriation (Parliament) Bill*. The Economics and Governance Committee heard that the Parliamentary Service's strategic objectives were to: support the Legislative Assembly in fulfilling its functions within the institution of this parliament; support members of the Legislative Assembly provide information to the public about our processes; and safeguard, promote and strengthen the institution of parliament. Of course, this is the eternal objective of this section of the budget.

The highlights for the Legislative Assembly and the Parliamentary Service for 2019-20 include: continuing the implementation of an electorate office relocation program to address the impacts of the considerable electoral boundary changes on members' electorate accommodation; continuing the implementation of a range of electorate office security enhancements; continuing the implementation of a new information technology strategy—which I know all members would be deeply appreciative of; I note that my office had the new internet services installed on Monday and my staff are still coming to terms with it—and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of IT Services in responding to emerging risks, such as cybersecurity; commencing the delivery of a three-year program to upgrade critical building infrastructure and services in the Parliamentary Annexe to address safety risks and ensure the reliability of services that support the parliamentary workplace; and continuing to implement the regional education program to help engage with key regional centres during the 56th Parliament.

Many would assume that in this place I speak only for the Logan electorate, but I recognise that as Queensland parliamentarians we are here for the whole of Queensland. I note that the Queensland parliament will hold a regional sitting of parliament in Townsville, which we are all excited about, from 3 to 5 September—

Mr Healy: Hear, hear!

Mr POWER: The member for Cairns likes to see our institutions go to North Queensland. The regional sittings will be held from 3 to 5 September 2019 at the Townsville Entertainment and Convention Centre. It is an historic opportunity for the school students of Townsville who perhaps do not get to come to Brisbane to attend parliament. I am sure some from Cairns will come down as well. For the general public of North Queensland, including Cairns and all of the fantastic cities and towns, it is an opportunity to visit their parliament and see democracy in action.

We know that a full program is to be announced shortly. I can confirm that we will see a full parliamentary sitting, a junior Indigenous youth parliament—which I will be dropping in on—a regional youth parliament and the school visits program, which I have mentioned. This is the fifth regional sitting of the Queensland parliament. The others were in Townsville in 2002—that is twice to Townsville—Rockhampton in 2005, Cairns in 2008 and Mackay in 2011.

The report presents a summary of the committee's examination of the budget estimates for the 2019-20 financial year contained in the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2019. Consideration of the budget estimates allows for the public examination of the administration of the Legislative Assembly's budget by the Speaker and officers of the Queensland Parliamentary Service.

The committee has unanimously recommended that the proposed expenditure, as detailed in the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2019, be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly without amendment. On behalf of the committee, I thank the Speaker, the Clerk and officers of the Parliamentary Service who attended and allowed us to see the workings of the parliament through the budget estimates process. I also want to thank all of the departmental officers who cooperated in providing all of the information to the committee throughout this process.

I wish to thank the deputy chair of the committee for his hard and diligent work in this area that we find of such value—the promotion of our parliament and the appropriate budgeting for it. I wish to extend my thanks to all members of the committee. I note that the member for Redlands is also very diligent. I thank the committee secretariat and other parliamentary staff for their assistance throughout the estimates process. I commend the report to the House.