



Speech By  
**Linus Power**

**MEMBER FOR LOGAN**

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Record of Proceedings, 20 August 2019


**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL**

**APPROPRIATION BILL**

**Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)**

**Appropriation Bill**

**Economics and Governance Committee, Report**

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (11.36 am): I rise to speak to the report tabled by the Economics and Governance Committee on the Appropriation Bill 2019-20. I thank all those who appeared before the committee. We noticed that when the Premier, the Deputy Premier and the Minister for Local Government appeared before the committee there were an enormous number of highly skilled departmental officers and public servants from statutory authorities who came very well prepared to be critically examined on all details of the budget put before them.

Certainly it was the intent of independent members and members of the government to examine the details of the budget during the opportunity the committee had. It is disappointing that such was not the case for those who are in opposition. Instead, they intended it as a vehicle to play politics and be destructive but not outline their alternate version of what they would do if they were in government. I note that members of the committee had very little time to do exactly what they would have done, which is put sometimes tricky and difficult questions about the detail of the budget. They were not given the time to do that, even though they had highly incisive things they wished to say about their electorates and the budget in general. Of course, those who were shadow ministers did very little of that, and that was what was disappointing about the process. I thank all those who participated.

I wish to speak more broadly about the budget. Budgets are sometimes dry documents, but we know they make an enormous difference to our electorates and the regions. First and foremost, the stability of the economy is presented. Although it is statewide, we know that—ably led by the Deputy Premier and Treasurer—we have a stable budget underpinned by jobs growth and new industries are being attracted which, of course, is something that delivers for the electorate of Logan.

The budget should also be compared. We have heard today that we will not hear how any of the billions of dollars in opposition funding promises will be accounted for—as they were in this year's budget. They will not actually be shown to the people of Queensland; instead, they will be revealed after 2020 when we will see the cuts and the sackings that come with every LNP government because we know it is in their DNA. This will particularly hurt areas where there is a growing population and a growing need for services, like the electorate of Logan.

During the LNP's time in government when the opposition leader was on the CBRC, there was not the significant funding that this budget delivers for the Logan Hospital, where there is \$26.7 million

out of a total of \$500 million for a raft of improvements and the expansion of the hospital by 206 beds. There was also no promise from the LNP to meet the need for schools, and that is something you would appreciate, Madam Deputy Speaker McMillan. We have built two new schools in Yarrabilba for our growing electorate. We have also built new classrooms. During the LNP's time in government when the opposition leader was on the CBRC, not one new classroom was built in the area of Logan. I am not saying there was not a huge growth or a huge need there, but we know what the LNP are about. There will be cuts and those cuts will cut deepest in areas that are growing the most, like Logan.

I mention the new Yarrabilba ambulance station and the new Munruben station. These are services that would not be built under an LNP government. Instead, these growing areas would suffer the most under cuts from an LNP government. I refer to the Mount Lindesay Highway safety improvements. During the LNP's time in government, there was no investment north of Jimboomba when the opposition leader sat on the CBRC, and she should apologise for that. There was no investment in the Mount Lindesay Highway that exists today. We are delivering \$45 million in just this budget year. That is part of a bigger program to actually deliver for the Mount Lindesay Highway.

We cannot go back to the LNP's cuts. We cannot go back to the very person who sat on the CBRC saying, 'Growing areas will be cut because we will not deliver the services they need. We will keep them for the inner city that already has those things. We will keep them for areas that have them and we will not deliver for growing areas in outer suburbia.'