



Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MACALISTER

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

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (5.18 pm): I rise to make my contribution to the debate on the report of the deliberations of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee during its estimates hearing on 26 July 2019, report No. 44 of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee. I would like to thank the secretariat and the work of all the support staff throughout the day—the attendants and Hansard—for making the logistics of the day run smoothly. It was much appreciated. I thank the ministers and their staff and the representatives of the various statutory bodies and government departments. I know that preparations for the day are long and somewhat consuming processes within departments.

The estimates process shines a light on some great expenditure and initiatives within the relevant portfolios. Specifically within the Attorney-General's portfolio there was some significant capital expenditure to upgrade courthouses throughout Queensland but in particular the Beenleigh Magistrates Court in my electorate of Macalister. The Service Delivery Statements detailed spending of some \$7 million this financial year upgrading the Beenleigh Courthouse. This is a commitment that we made in 2017 before the election and we are delivering.

Just last month I joined the Attorney-General to inspect the works. These works are designed to accommodate the expansion of the domestic and family violence specialist courts. Not only will the capacity of the courts to deal with these matters be increased, but the facility will also boost increased security for families and victims attending court. The renovations will provide separate and secure entries for victims so they do not have to sit in company with perpetrators whilst waiting for their court appointments.

During deliberations of the police minister's portfolio the commitment to the Wacol police precinct was outlined. The \$28 million commitment to the counterterrorism and community safety training centre at Wacol will also come with an increase in special emergency response team numbers. Boosting safety for Queenslanders is what is in this budget. It also contained a commitment for all uniformed first responder officers to be equipped with body worn cameras with funding of \$6.3 million over three years.

It was not just police response measures that received a boost—although I note the positive, proactive impact that body worn cameras do have in reducing not only vexatious complaints about police but also lengthy court matters by providing clear evidence of police interactions with the

community—a positive policing initiative was the \$1.8 million allocated to Project Booyah. Project Booyah operates in nine locations throughout Queensland but is based out of the Tudor Park PCYC in Loganholme. I have attended a number of graduations over the past 18 months. Project Booyah is proactively identifying young people who are at risk of ongoing contact with the criminal justice system due to a number of factors. I commend the work of Inspector Steve Pyne and Acting Inspector Ian Frame. They and their team are deeply committed and go above and beyond for the participants.

There are some great stories in this budget, but it would appear that the members opposite could not care less about what is being delivered in their electorates and for Queensland more broadly. I had a look at their statement of reservation to see what it is they took from the proceedings. If fellow members look at the statement of reservation tabled as part of my committee's report it may look familiar. That is because it is a cut and paste. We know those opposite like to cut and sack, but apparently cutting and pasting is also their forte. We are used to filibustering during speeches on various bills where the same talking points are stated and rehashed time and time again, but for those opposite to cut and paste from report to report is just lazy. Really? Submitting someone else's work would not cut it in the education system, it should not cut it in this House. To come in here and provide lectures on integrity when they cut and paste between reports is hypocrisy writ large.

To back this in, they have consistently chosen to cherry-pick words from the transcript of the proceedings. Obviously the responses from the CCC chair would attract attention, so one would think those opposite would take care to listen or read the transcript. Mr MacSporran stated that he received a phone call on a business mobile, yet the member for Everton stated in the House that the call was received on a personal mobile. Just read the transcript! They were quick to pick out terms like 'unwise' or 'unusual', but omit the words that followed: 'quite harmless, frankly'.

The statement of reservation goes on to highlight that 1,800-odd complaints were made about the Public Trustee over a three-year period but neglects the context, which is that that represents less than one per cent of the some 140,000 interactions over the same period. To decide to highlight seven instances of those 140,000 interactions is absolutely spurious. This is disappointing, but not unexpected.