



Speech By  
**Michael Hart**

**MEMBER FOR BURLEIGH**

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Record of Proceedings, 21 August 2019


**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL**

**APPROPRIATION BILL**

**Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)**

**Appropriation Bill**

**Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee, Report**

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (2.10 pm): Apparently this government has a plan. I wish I knew what it was. It was a pleasure to question the member for Cooper and Minister for Innovation at this estimates hearing. I can summarise the responses to just about every question that I put to her: it's not my fault, I was not the minister at the time, it's all the member for Algester's fault. Unfortunately, this is how to throw one of your comrades straight under the proverbial bus.

Let's go through a few of these things. There is the Advance Queensland Hot DesQ program. That is a \$6 million program that was put in place. I asked the director-general if he could describe what that was. He said—

Hot DesQ, was derived around that notion of bringing in the best and brightest from elsewhere so that they could become part of the Queensland community. It is in that context that people were sought from interstate and overseas. To be very clear, specifically we were seeking people from outside Queensland to come to Queensland to help Queensland start-ups.

I then asked how many of these companies were still in Queensland. The DG said—

There are a number that have stayed on. Of course, others have returned to where they were previously, having discharged their responsibilities contractually with the state.

I asked how many of those companies were no longer in Queensland, and to that the minister jumped in and said that they did not have to stay in Queensland. We have to ask: what was the purpose of this fund if it was to attract people to Queensland to start with, but they did not have to stay? An amount of \$6 million was spent and what has happened to that? On 19 June the minister said on Channel 9 that she would evaluate each of these grants case by case. She must have done that because the program has been axed; it has gone; \$6 million has flown out of the state.

The small business innovation fund was \$2.6 million. The same thing happened there. We asked how many of those grants were made to companies outside of Queensland or overseas. The answer was that 22 grants were given out, half of them went to overseas or out-of-state businesses and some of them no longer exist.

On 16 June the minister said—

I actually think this program could have been run better ...

I think there is a better use of that money in a different project.

What has happened to that program? Scrapped! Again, 'It was not my fault; I was not the minister; you'll have to talk to the member for Algester.'

Then we moved on to the Venturer Program—\$124,000 to design this program to encourage some of these start-ups to go on a trip and destress themselves. The convenor decided where he would take these people, and he took them overseas. They went to Mongolia, Tasmania and Victoria. Not too many of them made a trip to Queensland or stayed in Queensland. This is from the minister who is also the minister for tourism in Queensland: encouraging people to go out of the state.

Myriad was put forward by, again, the member for Algester. Apparently it was not the member for Cooper's fault; she was not the minister at the time. We all saw what happened there with the Myriad flight out of Queensland and whether it was appropriate for some of the people who were on that aeroplane to come out here. Myriad has gone. The minister did not tell us, but it has gone and has been replaced by something called QODE. We are not sure what is going to happen with that. The minister tells us it will stay, but who really knows?

I also asked the minister if Mr Andy Greig or Steve Baxter or their associated companies had ever benefitted from a grant in Queensland. To that the minister, in a longwinded answer, ended up saying—

Absolutely, he has invested in Queensland businesses over many years.

We really do not know whether some of these people have benefited from grants, but I can tell honourable members that Mr Andy Greig was also involved with a cruise tracking program that we have talked about a lot in this House over the last couple of weeks. This is a failure. The minister has failed completely in her task.

*(Time expired)*