



Speech By
Ray Stevens

MEMBER FOR MERMAID BEACH

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 STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (11.30 am): The estimates reports and the estimates process I recently witnessed have been the most eye-opening I have experienced in my 12 years in this House. In opening the estimates proceedings it was a great pleasure to see that the Speaker's office is being maintained in a proper and orderly manner. All matters relating to the CLA and the Speaker were a pleasure to listen to at this year's estimates—despite the fact that I received my first warning this morning—but from there on there were a litany of surprises and embarrassments for this government with a budget based again on debt, taxes and a rehash of old projects. It was amazing to sit there and watch the Premier, who was absolutely gobsmacked when—

Mr POWER: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I remind my inestimable deputy chair that at this point we are still speaking to the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill and the Premier did not appear as a witness. Perhaps the contribution of the member for Mermaid Beach would be better saved for the next bill.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms McMillan): Member for Mermaid Beach, come back to the bill, please.

Mr STEVENS: Certainly, Madam Deputy Speaker. There were a litany of embarrassments during that estimates period which led me to wonder why there is so much happening in this government that was not placed on the record properly for consideration by the Economics and Governance Committee.

The Speaker certainly appropriately answered all questions, which were diligently put forward by members on both sides in relation to the activities of the CLA. We were surprised to find there were issues that have been rotating over the years with the development of the parliamentary Annexe. There were also matters relating to the allocation of staffing areas et cetera and moneys issued through the Clerk's office for the 93 seats in this Parliament House. This particular part of the appropriation and estimates process covers a large area. Without alluding to other matters in the Appropriation Bill, which unfortunately I may not be able to brief the parliament on due to an absence I shall have to take, we will deal with those matters as they come up.

Quite clearly the Clerk and his staff have served the parliament well, as evidenced by his full and frank answers to every matter dealt with, particularly in relation to some difficult funding throughout the year. As I said in my opening, I cannot speak highly enough of the Speaker's agenda in carrying out

those works this year. As we move towards the final year of this parliament I am sure that operational matters throughout the House—the staff who support the Clerk’s office throughout the precinct and the Speaker and his administration—will be well supported. We look forward to the election year, which is a bit over 12 months away, and we trust that all matters in relation to the operation of the precinct will be soundly handled by the Clerk’s office.