



Speech By
Bruce Saunders
MEMBER FOR MARYBOROUGH

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APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation Bill

Transport and Resources Committee, Report

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (11.50 am): I rise to speak to the estimates report of the Transport and Resources Committee. Firstly, I thank the chair and the ministers. I particularly like the cufflinks the chair is wearing today. They are absolutely brilliant.

All we are hearing from those opposite is negativity. In my role as Assistant Minister for Regional Roads I have been on some trips recently. I have travelled thousands of kilometres around regional Queensland, and I can say that the people in regional Queensland are very happy with the Palaszczuk government's investment of over \$17 billion over the next 3½ years in regional roads. In places like Longreach, the council has never had so many graders on the workforce. The workforce is happy; they have projects right up to 2024 and continuing beyond.

We drive on roads around regional Queensland. I was born and bred in Longreach. I never thought I would see a bitumen road from Cramsie to Muttaborra. Guess who is delivering that? We hear crickets from the other side of the House. There is plenty happening under Labor: Barcaldine to Aramac and Jericho to Blackall.

Then what do we see? We see the opposition leader go on a road trip. Who wears a suit and tie on a road trip in Western Queensland? That is how out of touch those opposite are with regional Queensland. Everywhere I travel they say, 'Who? It is good to see you blokes out here. You're the only people we see in regional Queensland. You're the only government that is delivering for regional Queensland.'

While I was travelling up the Bruce Highway the other day, I called in to the electric vehicle charging station at Miriam Vale. I talked to the people there who were charging their cars. They were saying how great the Electric Super Highway delivered by the Palaszczuk Labor government is. They were talking about how they can get in their electric cars and go right up the Bruce Highway. That is being delivered by the Palaszczuk Labor government.

All we hear from the other side is 'the estimates this' and 'the estimates that'. What about the member for Callide? I was out in his territory the other day. Talk about being MIA! No-one knows him. When you ask, 'Where is the member for Callide?', particularly in Biloela, Monto and other places, they do not know him. He is talking about running for the federal seat of Flynn. I really am worried for the people of Flynn if he is elected because he is doing nothing as the member for Callide. All he is doing is worrying about trying to get into federal parliament.

We are delivering in spades right around regional Queensland. The transport industry is very happy. Councils are more than happy with what this government is delivering in regional Queensland. As I said, I have been doing a lot of kilometres travelling around. When the minister and I get out and talk to people, we are engaging with the public and asking them what they want. We are spending over \$17 billion on roads in the next 3½ years in regional Queensland, creating a lot of jobs.

What a great job the member for Springwood has done working with the foundry people and addressing electricity prices. He has kept alive the foundry in Maryborough, saving 122 jobs in Maryborough. It is absolutely brilliant. I cannot thank the minister enough on behalf of the workers at the foundry in Maryborough and the people of Maryborough city. This is what this government does. This is a traditional Labor budget—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Member for Maryborough, could you resume your seat, please. Unfortunately for you, the time allowed for this debate has expired.