



Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

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APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) (2020-2021) BILL

APPROPRIATION (2020-2021) BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation (Parliament) (2020-2021) Bill

Economics and Governance Committee, Report

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Investment) (11.26 am): I wish to begin my contribution on this report by thanking the members of the Economics and Governance Committee for their very detailed work. In particular I thank the chair, the member for Logan—a very fine chair indeed—who works extremely hard in that role. It is interesting to observe the comments by the opposition on this report on the budget as it pertains to this committee. Their first concern is not the significant number of people in Queensland who are seeking work in this state—although I am pleased to report to the House that unemployment has fallen to seven per cent in Queensland, which is 0.2 per cent lower than unemployment was under the LNP. Unemployment in Queensland now, as we are dealing with the worst pandemic in a century, is lower than it was under the LNP when it was in government. Without a pandemic unemployment was higher in this state and the first concern of the members opposite is the parliamentary annexe.

I make it very clear that the government will spend public money to ensure the building is safe and that people who live and work here are kept safe, but the priority of the government is the economic recovery of Queensland.

Mr BLEIJIE: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I seek your clarification. My understanding is we are debating the Appropriation (Parliament) (2020-2021) Bill with respect to the first element of the committee process which was just the CLA committee. The Treasurer seems to have possibly jumped the gun and is now talking about the next phase of the debate, which is the economics committee. We are really only debating the CLA portion. Can I have clarification on that?

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): I will ask the member for Woodridge to direct his comments to the Appropriation (Parliament) (2020-2021) Bill.

Mr DICK: My comments are perfectly relevant because the priority of the government will not be spending money on politicians. The priority of the government will be using public money, with record deficits and a record debt—admittedly two-thirds of the debt that will be racked up in the gold standard state of New South Wales. Our debt is lower than New South Wales and lower than Victoria because of the prudent financial management of the Palaszczuk Labor government. I assure all members that we will spend money on the parliamentary annexe to ensure it is safe. The priority of the government is the economic recovery of Queensland, getting Queenslanders back into jobs, delivering infrastructure and supporting frontline services.

That is the priority and it does not matter whether it is a report on the parliamentary services or a report on any other aspect of government. It does not matter because the priorities of the LNP and those of the Labor government are absolutely clear. Another example of that very clear difference is the absolute priority and purpose of the Labor government, which is to get people into work. That is our purpose and our mission as I said in my budget speech when, of course, all those members opposite decided to laugh at my late father and my late grandmother, breaching the convention of the parliament that a budget speech is to be heard in silence, because they put themselves first and Queenslanders last.

Mr BLEIJIE: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Again, this is about the CLA portion of the Appropriation (Parliament) (2020-2021) Bill, not what the minister is talking about. I know he will not accept the fact that he has stuffed up and is speaking in the wrong speaking slot, but the reality is that he should be speaking on the CLA issue in the appropriations.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, I believe that his address is appropriate.

Mr DICK: I am very happy to speak on this portion of the report. You know you have the member for Kawana when he keeps interjecting. You know you are right on the target and that you are really pressing the buttons for the member for Kawana. On this issue the member for Kawana, like the member for Mermaid Beach, is fundamentally wrong. We will spend money on this building to keep it safe, but the priority for this parliamentary term is investing public money on supporting jobs, on growing the economy and on recovering from COVID-19. That is my mission as Treasurer and it is the mission of our government.