




Speech By
David Janetzki

MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH

Record of Proceedings, 18 November 2021

COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (3.26 pm): I start by saying that I am a little concerned at the jokiness of the contribution of the previous member. In fact, the overarching jokiness combined from those opposite. Fundamentally this goes to the question of transparency in this state. Those opposite think it is a bit of a joke. That highlights again their lack of commitment to transparency, their hubris, their arrogance in a third term where they think they can just run the show. Transparency is just a bit of a joke over there. For us it is deadly serious.

The report before the House today is only a statistical report. We have heard from the member for Capalaba about the number of questions asked and the jokiness about the time, but this report only reveals the statistical nature of the estimates process. It does not reveal the tone. It does not reveal the quality or the content of the answers. It does not reveal the plethora of interjections, the mode of obfuscation, as the member for Kawana has said, the committee chairs who seek to re-ask questions that the opposition are phrasing, all delivering wastage of time and a diminution of the quality of the estimates process.

In a one-house parliament the estimates process takes on far more importance than in any other parliament we see around this nation. It is fundamental for the opposition to examine the expenditure and the appropriations of various ministers and their departments. It is fundamental to the transparency that this parliament should be exercising over the executive. The leader of the opposition has committed—after the debacle that was the December 2020 estimates, and we have seen it again most recently in July—that if elected to government in 2024 the member for Broadwater would institute an investigation by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly to investigate the estimates process. There would be a range of issues that would be considered.

The first thing that would be up for investigation is the number of Dixers asked by those opposite.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr JANETZKI: I take the interjection. We look forward to that day. Frankly, the Dixers from those opposite are a complete and utter waste of time. There should also be an investigation into whether a crossbench or opposition member should chair the committee. Those are commitments that we have put forward. We would bring back accountability and transparency to this parliament and that is what good governments should be doing. They should not be obfuscating or hiding behind process. They should not be misusing the process to cover up their failings when the people of Queensland deserve to know how the appropriations are being spent and should be able to see the proper examination of ministers in this House.

We have also committed to increase the time for the investigation of the expenditure because, as a one-house parliament, ultimately it is this House that is responsible for undertaking those investigations. Recently the member for Southport issued his report into the number of private meetings held by his committee. The Health and Environment Committee held 19 private meetings and eight

public meetings. That kind of privacy unnecessarily detracts from the transparency of this House. That issue should also be addressed because it feeds into the cynicism that people have of this House. If our side of the House forms government in 2024, we will not tolerate that because the people of Queensland deserve better.

(Time expired)