



Speech By
Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

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APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) (2020-2021) BILL

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Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation (Parliament) (2020-2021) Bill

Economics and Governance Committee, Report

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (11.18 am): This is the first of the appropriation debates dealing with the Committee of the Legislative Assembly. It is a pleasure to serve on that committee with honourable members. Before we get into the appropriate budget estimates debate, I want to place on record a few things that I raised on the day of the committee hearings—that is, the serious nature of the Parliamentary Annexe. This annexe is falling apart and it is becoming unsafe with respect to a lot of these issues. In the last two years we have had air-conditioning units catch on fire. Members were evacuated. We had another incident where an air-conditioning unit caught on fire.

We then had major water leaks. Money has to be expended on the whole water unit throughout the annexe, alleviating more potential safety issues because, if members are unaware, the water tank is on top of the Parliamentary Annexe. Yesterday it was revealed, appropriately through the Clerk, that parts of the concrete facade are falling off. The concrete facade is essentially held together with metal pins. Some of the metal pins were replaced and fixed in 1991—obviously not all of them. They have rusted and are pushing golf ball sized concrete pieces onto the level 7 area which is now cordoned off until an appropriate assessment is undertaken.

As I said at the estimates process, at some point a government of any political persuasion is going to have to fix the annexe. It is the public's building. This is the people's house. I fear for the safety of not only members but everyone who works here: parliamentary staff, attendants and journalists. It is becoming an unsafe environment for people. I put on record that I think that money has to be spent on the annexe to get it appropriately safe for everyone who uses this as their office space. Concrete falling off the side of the building does present a huge safety risk not only to members of parliament and staff but also to the public who come to Parliament House for functions. We cannot now use parts of the level 7 space because of the safety issues.

The opposition is very much willing to work with the government. We recognise the government is the government for four years. The Committee of the Legislative Assembly needs to sit down and have proper, grown-up discussions about the investment that has to be made to not only make safe this building but also provide an opportunity for parliamentary staff to work in a 2021 workplace environment.