



Speech By
Joan Pease

MEMBER FOR LYTTON

Record of Proceedings, 31 August 2021


APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation Bill

Health and Environment Committee, Report

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (5.53 pm): I rise today to speak to report No. 9 of the Health and Environment Committee. The committee has recommended that the proposed expenditure, as detailed in the Appropriation Bill 2021, for the committee's area of responsibility be agreed to without amendment.

I begin by acknowledging the amazing work of our frontline workers—health, retail and transport workers, national parks and wildlife officers and, of course, teachers. Without each of them stepping forward, we would not be in the fabulous position we are in today, and I thank them. I also acknowledge the wonderful work of our great Chief Health Officer, Dr Jeannette Young. This was her last estimates hearing. I thank her for keeping us safe and for her guidance and measured approach. I would also like to acknowledge our Premier, Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk, and thank her for staying strong—standing up for Queenslanders and working to ensure we have a strong health and economic recovery.

I also acknowledge the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services, Hon. Yvette D'Ath, and the former health minister, Hon. Steven Miles. I thank them both for their previous and current work to ensure the health of all Queenslanders. Of course, I thank our Treasurer, Hon. Cameron Dick, who has delivered a budget that addresses Queenslanders' health, the environment and our economy.

I thank our health workers. They have done such a great job and put themselves at the front of the pandemic. That is why I was so terribly disappointed by the approach the LNP took towards the estimates. The display by the member for Mudgeeraba on the day—I note that the Minister for Health has already spoken about that—was nothing short of disgraceful. From the moment she walked into the proceedings wearing what I take to be—I am not really sure whether it was meant to be a statement, ironic or quirky; it was probably not quirky but who knows?—a shark's teeth mask—

A government member: I thought it was her real face!

Ms PEASE: I take that interjection. From there, the member's manner towards the hardworking, committed and professional public servants was absolutely and utterly disgraceful. The member's bullying and verballing of witnesses was so very disappointing.

Today we have heard so many complaints from those opposite about the estimates process, yet when they had an opportunity to question the budget it was just a witch-hunt by the member for Mudgeeraba. It was a witch-hunt against our hardworking public servants. I was actually incredibly

embarrassed. My community would expect better behaviour from me, and I assume the constituents of Mudgeeraba would likewise expect it of her. The dedicated, hardworking public servants like those in attendance at estimates had to pivot, adjust and make changes to Queensland Health through a pandemic lens. They deserve and are entitled to respect, but this was not on display by the LNP on the day. The ongoing lack of respect for the chair and the witnesses, ignoring of the chair's guidance as well as talking over the top of committee members was appalling. It was just terrible and I am ashamed to say that it took place here in our Queensland parliament. I do not accept that behaviour. My community does not accept that behaviour and neither do Queenslanders.

At community events I have attended since the hearing I have been approached by a number of constituents who watched estimates. They shared with me their dismay. It reminded those public servants of how little regard the LNP has for them as hardworking public servants. These public servants have advised me that the behaviour by the LNP on the day only reinforced and reminded them of the LNP's terrible history in terms of the lack of respect and of the sacking of public servants. Do I need to remind everyone here about the appalling history of those opposite in health alone and the appalling health cuts that baysiders experienced firsthand?

I acknowledge all of the work that went into the SDS for both health and environment. I acknowledge the great work of Minister Scanlon. I acknowledge and thank my colleagues on the committee and the committee secretariat for their great work. I commend the report to the House.