



Speech By
Jonty Bush

MEMBER FOR COOPER

Record of Proceedings, 24 February 2021


APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) (2020-2021) BILL

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Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation (2020-2021) Bill

Legal Affairs and Safety Committee, Report

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (11.20 am), continuing: It gives me pleasure to speak in support of the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee report. I want to pick up on a comment made last night by the member for Clayfield, who described the progress of the Department of Justice and Attorney-General as 'glacial'. Mr Speaker, it might interest you to know that the definition of a glacier is a persistent body of ice that is constantly moving. That is not actually a bad fit for the department. The employees there are absolutely persistent in the face of criticism. They believe in the prospects of their clients and they are constantly moving, constantly striving to make Queensland a safer place.

Perhaps when you do not have an understanding of the sociology of crime it is easy to fall into a trap of thinking there are simple solutions, but the reality is that diverting people from sometimes a lifetime of violent offending takes a substantial investment over a period of time. It takes persistence from the non-government sector and Public Service employees who, quite frankly, deserve better than to go home after working all day—perhaps working with a rape victim or a recent parolee—only to look up *Hansard* and see that a member of parliament has described them as 'sclerotic'.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to this persistent and progressive reform. We are committed to drawing from both the evidence and lived experience of those using the justice system to inform policy that works in practice and is not just a punchy headline. This reform is evident in the government's recent announcement to legislate against coercive control as a form of domestic and family violence—an announcement that has already attracted national interest and applause.

Our government has stated that the 2020-21 budget is about economic recovery. Essential to that is our ability to provide protection and support to women and to those experiencing violence so they are afforded the opportunity to reach their fullest potential. I commend the Palaszczuk government's budget and the report to the House.