



Speech By  
**Lachlan Millar**

**MEMBER FOR GREGORY**

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Record of Proceedings, 31 August 2021


## **APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL**

### **APPROPRIATION BILL**

#### **Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)**

#### **Appropriation Bill**

#### **Transport and Resources Committee, Report**

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (6.48 pm): This is an opportunity to talk about the estimates process. On listening to the minister before, they must be absolutely worried about the seat of Flynn. The No. 1 attacker, the Minister for Transport, spends more time talking about the member for Callide than he does talking about transport and fixing roads in regional Queensland. We just had the minister before talking about the member for Callide. I think the member for Callide would be absolutely pleased at the moment. I wish he was in the chamber with us now. Those opposite continue to talk about the member for Callide. How about they focus on their job—on fixing the roads and providing the energy? How about they focus on doing their job rather than focusing on the member for Callide? They spend more time talking about the member for Callide than they do talking about their own portfolios.

First of all, I am going to give some credit. I would like to thank the chair of our committee, Shane King, the member for Kurwongbah. He did an excellent job. He allowed us to ask the questions in a block. He did not interfere in each question. He allowed our 20-minute block. I call on the member for Logan and the other chairs to have a look at the chairman of our committee. The member for Kurwongbah did a great job as chair. He allowed us to ask more questions than we needed to. He allowed us to do more with our questions than his own government members. I thank the member for Kurwongbah.

The reality is that, if you have listened to the estimates hearings over the last two weeks—even though we had that break because of the lockdown—the estimates process is broken here in Queensland. It is broken when committee chairs and government members interfere with opposition questions and try to delay any opportunity for the opposition to ask questions. The right of opposition members in the estimates process is to ask questions of ministers, department heads, DGs and people involved in those portfolios. They have a right to do that. Queenslanders expect us to have that right.

**Mr Power** interjected.

**Mr MILLAR:** I take the interjection from the member for Logan. Go and ask the journalists here in the Queensland parliament what they think of the estimates process. They think it is an absolute waste of time. In fact, I am sure that when it comes to the estimates process most journalists dread those two weeks. They know they are going to get nothing out of it. The government, the minister and some of

the government members on these committees obviously do not treat the estimates process as it was designed to be treated. The estimates process is broken. If everyday Queenslanders wanted to see exactly how this estimates process worked, they would say this is not how it should be done.

Finally, one thing I do want to raise is that the Labor government decided not to proceed with the establishment of the Personalised Transport Ombudsman and obviously wasted around \$430,000 in setting up the office. Basically we spent \$430,000 of taxpayers' hard-earned cash and we abandoned the Personalised Transport Ombudsman. They were told by the taxi industry and the limo industry that it was never going to work, yet they proceeded with it and wasted \$430,000.

What could almost half a million dollars have done for the people of Gregory? We could have properly funded the school bus drop off at the Emerald State High School for a start—which we have been calling for for the last five years. We could also start a proper school bus drop off for the Denison State School in Emerald as well. That would have been better.

One of the issues I continue to talk about is the almost \$6 billion in maintenance backlog which continues to hinder the economic development of regional Queensland. You only have to drive the Dawson Highway. I call on the Minister for Transport—

**Ms Leahy:** Go for a drive!

**Mr MILLAR:**—to come with me. We will jump in a car and I will drive the Dawson Highway. I will have to give him a crash helmet in the car because he will be hitting his head everywhere on the route. It is the same with the Capricorn Highway.

Finally, to the Minister for Resources, please give ample consideration for Acland to go ahead. We need that economic development on the Darling Downs. There is no reason that Acland should not go ahead when mines are going ahead in Central Queensland. Please approve that mine.