



Speech By
Hon. Meaghan Scanlon

MEMBER FOR GAVEN

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APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation Bill

Health and Environment Committee, Report

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs) (5.43 pm): I rise to speak to the report of the Health and Environment Committee following the 2021-22 budget estimates. The Palaszczuk government budget is delivering for our environment and for the economies and jobs that rely on it. With a record \$1.4 billion investment as well as important projects in other portfolios like energy, transport and agriculture that support our new Climate Action Plan, this budget delivers. It was interesting to hear the member for Bonney's contribution just now because he has been very, very quiet so far. In fact, we heard virtually nothing from the member for Bonney on the estimates process: no media statements and no happy snaps on Facebook like we usually see. He just sent a select email to a small handful of people. It is slightly confusing until you look at who the member for Bonney's state and federal colleagues are. Of course, we know that they hate talking about the environment and when you look at their record, it is obvious why.

It was interesting to hear some of the remarks during the estimates process and just then about the signal around emissions reduction, particularly from those opposite who have no signal. They went to the last election wanting to scrap our emissions reduction targets altogether, so I am not sure what signal that sends to industry.

I mentioned during the estimates process that here in Queensland we are seeing a reduction in our emissions, but we had a period of time where we saw no large-scale renewable energy projects in this state as a consequence of the Newman government. We actually saw greenhouse gas emissions rise as a consequence of many of the policies enacted by those opposite. In fact, when we look at their vegetation management track record, we see a rise in emissions from that sector as a consequence of the repeal of those vegetation management laws. That is something that the member for Bonney voted against in the last term of government. Now he comes in here and cosplays as a progressive talking about emissions reduction but actually is doing very little. Of course, on this subject—

Opposition members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Order! Members to my left, you will cease all interjections.

Ms SCANLON: Then, of course, we have the former leader of the opposition who said that people who had rooftop solar were inner-city latte sippers. On this side of the House—

Mr Nicholls interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Ms SCANLON:—we are doing what we can to try to reduce emissions. That is why we launched a new Climate Action Plan that has a range of new measures associated with it, and I encourage the member opposite to read it in more detail. So far we have seen a 14 per cent reduction in emissions since 2005, and emissions in areas like energy and transport are stabilising despite the significant population and economic growth that we have experienced recently. Investments that we have made in this budget like our \$2 billion Renewable Energy and Hydrogen Jobs Fund will continue this trend.

Another core component of those efforts is the flagship Land Restoration Fund with Queensland being the first subnational government in the world to pursue carbon farming in this way. This budget locks in ongoing funding for this program through the Carbon Reduction Investment Fund, which those opposite seem to be struggling to comprehend, ensuring a sustained, certain funding source for years to come. This is especially important as the projects under the LRF are long-term projects that will deliver environmental benefits over many years with the most recent round focusing on reef catchment areas—and I know the Acting Speaker is particularly passionate about protecting our Great Barrier Reef as it is an important economic driver in Far North Queensland.

I was really pleased that this budget also delivered \$270 million over five years for our Reef Water Quality Program. That is in addition to the \$130 million field management program. Of course, we know the two biggest threats to the reef are climate change and water quality. That is why we are acting, it is why we are investing and it is why we have asked the Commonwealth to merely match our funding to show the international community, the World Heritage Committee, that we take very real concerns seriously. As always, we would welcome any commitment from the LNP to match us at a state or federal level when it comes to some of these policies.

Of course, our national parks and other protected areas are critical for our economic recovery, for the tourism sector as well as for protecting our rich biodiversity. Since 2015 we have increased the size of protected areas across Queensland by 1.2 million hectares. The estate is now more than twice the size of Tasmania. We have also allocated \$254 million over five years to continue Queensland's Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy. We want Queensland to become a zero waste society, not Australia's dumping ground, which is what happened when those opposite repealed the waste levy.

This is a budget that delivers for our environment. I am very proud of it. I want to thank all of the staff members who participated in the estimates process and who put in place the budget. I commend the report to the House.