



Speech By
Michael Crandon

MEMBER FOR COOMERA

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APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) (2020-2021) BILL

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Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation (2020-2021) Bill

Economics and Governance Committee, Report

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (12.22 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the estimates report for the Economics and Governance Committee. I thank our secretariat who did a wonderful job. They had a very hard job considering the time frames they were given to pull things together after the budget was handed down.

I want to use as an example the contribution by the Premier in response to a question I asked her in relation to funding for health on the Gold Coast. I will just set the scene. I remember very clearly that on 19 October we had an announcement from the Premier, the health minister and the Labor candidate—which I think was in the halls of the Gold Coast University Hospital—that there was to be a new hospital for the northern Gold Coast. That was the thrust of what was being put forward to the people of the Gold Coast and the northern Gold Coast, and the headline was something like ‘\$160 million: First look at new northern Gold Coast hospital’.

I delved into the funding arrangements around that \$160 million to try to establish exactly where the money was going to be spent to build this northern Gold Coast hospital and, sadly, it turned out to be something of a furphy. We saw that, of the \$160 million, there was around \$105 million or \$110 million of already announced funding for the Gold Coast University Hospital itself to build, I believe, a mental health unit. That is very important, but it had already been announced. That left us with about \$50 million or \$55 million. We then saw another \$5 million to \$7 million for Robina Hospital. Once again, I believe it was a very important piece of equipment that was going to be put in but it had already been announced. Then it was \$40 million for a satellite hospital down on the southern end of the Gold Coast, and it turns out we do not know where that is going to be. We have no idea where that is going to be, but that was the thrust of the whole thing.

The headline in the newspaper was something like ‘\$160 million: First look at new northern Gold Coast hospital’. Of that \$160 million, how much was for the northern Gold Coast hospital? It was \$3 million for planning. Eight weeks earlier, the opposition’s Deb Frecklington announced \$4 million to do exactly the same planning, and there were no frills around that. It was \$4 million to do the planning for a northern Gold Coast hospital and health precinct. We were very clear. However, the headline in the paper and the headline that was pushed by the Premier was that they were going to build a hospital on the northern Gold Coast. Sadly, the people of the northern Gold Coast once again were being treated as pawns in this Labor government’s desire to make sure they were in office for a third term.

They are not building a hospital on the northern Gold Coast. They have \$3 million for planning for a hospital on the northern Gold Coast, and that is as far as they are going. They even identified the site that is owned by the health department, and it is a koala corridor. That is a major issue already because it cannot be built on in its current form. There is \$20 million needed just to get the grounds right. It is absolute rubbish to suggest that the hospital will be built there. It is not appropriate to have it built there.

The \$3 million will go into planning a hospital somewhere on the northern Gold Coast which we desperately need. When I asked the Premier in estimates where the \$3 million was in the budget—and it was not in the budget; it was not a line item—it was, 'It's somewhere in there. It's probably in some of the consolidated moneys, but the \$3 million will be there for the planning.' At no time has anyone admitted anything. During the election campaign, Labor people were saying, 'Look at this. We're building a hospital,' but it was absolute rubbish. They are not building a hospital. They are planning for a hospital. We desperately need it and I thank the government for seeing that now, following on from our commitment, and we will now see where we go from there.

(Time expired)