




Speech By
Michael Crandon

MEMBER FOR COOMERA

Record of Proceedings, 24 February 2021

MOTION

Estimates Process, Referral to Committee of the Legislative Assembly

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (5.11 pm): I second the motion moved by the member for Maroochydore. At the heart of this issue is accountability by the government to the people of Queensland. At the heart of this motion we are arguing for the need for more accountability by the government to the people. Those opposite want to talk about the past. We want to talk about the future of this place. We want to talk about the future of Queensland.

To do that, as outlined in this motion, we need to look at: providing more time for scrutiny; appointing a more independent chair to ensure there is bipartisan oversight; broadening the estimates program to give committees the opportunity to delve more deeply into the details of an issue—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Member for Gregory and member for Gympie, you are actually interjecting over your own member and making it difficult for me to hear.

A government member interjected.

Mr CRANDON: I will take the interjection of the member opposite.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The clock is paused, member for Coomera. Resume your seat. Member for Gregory and member for Gympie, you are interjecting over your own speaker and making it difficult for me to hear your speaker.

Mr CRANDON: We need to look at where we sit with regard to best practice principles. We currently have seven portfolio committees and each committee has only one day to delve into the budget papers. For example, the Economics and Governance Committee has three ministers and their entourages to appear before it, including the Premier and Treasurer of this state and the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.

Let us break this down. Mr Speaker and the Clerk were there for 45 minutes. We have the Parliamentary Annexe which is falling apart and we were able to talk to them on the public record for 45 minutes. The Premier was allocated three hours and 15 minutes. What is the Premier responsible for? She is responsible for the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, the Integrity Commissioner, the Office of the Governor, the Public Service Commission, the Queensland Audit Office, Screen Queensland and Trade & Investment Queensland.

The Treasurer was allocated three hours and 45 minutes. What is the Treasurer responsible for? He is responsible for Queensland Treasury, the Motor Accident Insurance Commission, the National Injury Insurance Agency Queensland, the Nominal Defendant, the Queensland Bulk Water Supply Authority—that is, Seqwater—the Queensland Competition Authority, the Queensland Productivity Commission, Queensland Rail, Queensland Treasury Corporation and government owned corporations. That is a huge portfolio which was allocated three hours and 45 minutes.

The Minister for Tourism Industry Development and Innovation and Minister for Sport was allocated 2½ hours. What is he responsible for? He is responsible for the Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport—one of the most important portfolios for this state—Stadiums Queensland, Tourism and Events Queensland and Trade & Investment Queensland. The list goes on.

The government makes the decisions on timing. The government needs to make it possible for proper scrutiny to occur. It is a broken system that is failing to deliver for the people of Queensland. We need to be able to delve more deeply into past and future budget expenditure on behalf of all Queenslanders. We are after all the people's house. We represent all Queenslanders. Through the estimates process they deserve more opportunity to see government expenditure scrutinised by the people whom they elected into this House. They brought us here. We on this side are responsible for making sure we keep those on that side of the House in order. We need to look far more deeply into their portfolios. To think we only had three hours and 15 minutes allocated for the examination of the Premier of this state with all of her responsibilities!

The list goes on. Day 2 of estimates was the State Development and Regional Industries Committee. There was three hours and 15 minutes allocated for the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning. The list of his responsibilities is huge. There was 2½ hours allocated for the Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing. The Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities was allocated three hours.

Mr Krause: That includes Dorothy Dixers.

Mr CRANDON: That includes all of the Dorothy Dixers. I will take that interjection from the member for Scenic Rim.

At the end of the day, we represent all Queenslanders. They deserve more opportunity to see government expenditure scrutinised by the people they elected through the estimates process. I call on all members to vote yes and support this important motion to make our estimates process the best it can be. Let us fix this system.