



Speech By
Robbie Katter

MEMBER FOR TRAEGER

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APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) (2020-2021) BILL

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Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation (2020-2021) Bill

State Development and Regional Industries Committee, Report

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (3.25 pm): Members of the opposition have commented on the conduct and purpose of the budget estimates committee process. In my time I have experienced both sides of politics being in government. Certainly there are limited opportunities for non-government members to ask questions. It is a terrific time for the public to see some real robust interrogation of the government and its budget, but that time is consistently encroached upon by the government, which has some ability to control the process. The chairs might do an adequate job, but at the end of the day we are left with a sense that we have heard another string of the ministerial statements, like we hear every day in parliament. The government gets the benefit of doing that. If we are looking at providing the best interrogation of government for the public, we could certainly improve on what we have now.

I am constantly curtailed in terms of the length of questions. I try my best to highlight points to provide context. That was a point I made clear in the process: without context the question meant nothing, yet I was pulled up on question length or preamble. Subtracting parts from the question makes it meaningless. I think some ministers appreciate a bit of context around questions so that things are not just rammed at them. Saying, 'That is too long a question'—it seemed to come up a lot more than it has in the past—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mrs Gerber): Order! The time for debate has now expired.