



Speech By
Shane King

MEMBER FOR KURWONGBAH

Record of Proceedings, 23 February 2021


APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) (2020-2021) BILL

APPROPRIATION (2020-2021) BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation (2020-2021) Bill

Transport and Resources Committee, Report

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (5.27 pm): I rise to speak to report No. 2 of the Transport and Resources Committee regarding the Appropriation (2020-2021) Bill. Sadly I was unable to attend and chair this year's estimates proceedings due to illness, but I watched very keenly from where I was. I will try to limit my contribution to one as an observer who wished he could have been there. I would like to start by thanking the Treasurer for delivering the budget as promised in extremely difficult times and also the Premier, health minister, and Chief Health Officer for keeping us safe and providing some sense of normality in a very unnatural time in all our lives. Thanks to our committee secretariat, Hansard and all who pulled it together for us, particularly at that time of year. I have been hearing those opposite bleat about the short time frames. I did not think there was, but I always have faith in the parliamentary staff. They were practised in unusual timings and procedures during the Newman years so no doubt it was a breeze for all concerned.

Special thanks to my friend and colleague, Chris Whiting, the member for Bancroft, for chairing the day for me in my absence. I was pleased to see some vital transport projects in my electorate were referred to. I would have asked about them had I been there. The Dakabin station disability upgrade is going ahead in leaps and bounds. The community is very grateful to see this coming along. The member for Bancroft and I are both amazed at the speed the Deception Bay Road highway interchange is progressing and we thank the minister for getting this back in QTRIP after it was cut out during the Newman years. The only major project that I did not hear mentioned that I would have asked about is the Petrie roundabout upgrade which will remove a bottleneck that has plagued commuters in my area for years. The service relocations and resumptions are completed, the contract has been let and it will be underway soon.

During the Department of Transport and Main Roads session, I witnessed something I never expected to see and hope to never see again. The member for Maroochydore, who is a former Speaker and is looked up to by many in this place, showed such a blatant disregard for process that she was asked to leave under the standing orders. I was shocked and the few people who I had encouraged to sit with me and watch estimates were as well. It was pretty despicable. During the estimates process overall there seemed to be a general disregard for process from those opposite. No Speaker accepts that behaviour in this chamber and I hope we can have more decorum from members at the next estimates hearings.

The extra Works for Queensland funds delivered in the budget are providing great outcomes in my area. Along with Moreton Bay regional councillors from divisions 2, 8 and 11, we in the community are very excited. It means more jobs helping local tradies to get through the COVID pandemic. Our roads, schools and communities are being well serviced by our government and, once again, the estimates process highlighted that.

As a chair I am always interested in the timing of the questions during estimates and how those opposite complain that they get an unfair proportion of the time. Last year was no different in that non-government members got 53 per cent of the time and government members got 42.4 per cent of the time. There were nine hours of hearings and those opposite interrogated ministers for just over five hours. It is pretty hard to whinge about that. They asked 180 questions. If they had asked decent questions, there would be even less to whinge about.

Finally, I turn to the opposition's statement of reservation or 'statement of rhetoric', which is a more accurate name for it. They call for a different estimates process, which is frightening as last time they were in government they held all the hearings in two days. That did not last as it was a failure and, in my opinion, provided far less scrutiny than the process we undertook late last year. As an observer—I was not there, although I wish I had been—I want to thank all who did participate. I look forward to chairing the hearing next time around.