



Speech By
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MEMBER FOR KURWONGBAH

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APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation Bill

Transport and Resources Committee, Report

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (6.23 pm): This evening I rise to speak to the estimates report tabled by the Transport and Resources Committee, which is the committee's report No. 10. When our committee started we had a long day ahead of us. Sadly, it started poorly with a cheap stunt about one of our committee members who had been stood down and replaced for the day and whether he was still being paid. The issues were completely beyond the control of our committee, the secretariat, myself or the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. He was there to answer questions and was quite bemused that his time and that of the committee was being wasted in that way. The opposition members knew full well that the issue could not be resolved there and then. It was a disappointing way to start the day. I sincerely hope that there will be no complaints about time being wasted, as they were guilty of that from the get-go.

I will also pass comment on the visiting members for Everton, Broadwater and Maroochydore. In my opinion, they blatantly disregarded the process, constantly spoke over the minister and tried to speak over the chair. The member for Maroochydore is a former Speaker and many in this place, including myself, look up to her. It was certainly disappointing that that occurred not only in our session but also in others that I watched. I made a point of allowing just about every question to proceed to ministers and officials. Despite imputations and arguments in most of them, I allowed the ministers to answer as they saw fit when a question was deliberately inflammatory. If the members for Maroochydore, Broadwater and Everton had waited to hear the answers to their obviously loaded questions, the sessions would have gone a lot more smoothly. As it was, non-government members asked 97 questions and government members asked 49 questions, at a ratio of 4½ hours to 3½ hours respectively.

During the day, questions highlighted some great achievements of the Palaszczuk government. One in particular that grabbed me was the backing of Queensland maritime jobs by supporting the establishment of a new coastal shipping service, which will not only provide stimulus to regional Queensland but also invest in skills and training capacity to help grow Queensland's maritime workforce. Our previous committee did an inquiry into this industry. We saw that the training for future maritime workers—those who will become our tugboat and pilot boat captains and Maritime Safety Queensland officers who protect our reef—should be a priority. A lot of vessels that use our ports are

non-Australian flagged vessels and certainly are not the best training ground for maritime workers who navigate ships around our reef. Our reef is unique and we want industry trained local people who care about its future working on and protecting it.

I could go on for ages about the fantastic things our government is doing in the transport space but I will move on, other than to say that Cross River Rail has reached a significant milestone as both Else and Merle have broken through. As a committee we will visit that project soon. We are looking forward to seeing those not-boring boring machines.

In the portfolio area for the Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement, for me the highlight was the funding for undertaking design and costing studies for a pumped hydro project at Borumba. As I come from the industry myself and having seen how efficient Wivenhoe is, this body of work really excites me. Those renewable clean power stations are great not only in an emergency, as was evidenced recently during the failure of the coal-fired power station at Callide; they also work as a battery to provide stable power during the evenings when solar does not generate.

The questioning of the resources portfolio was a decent process and I commend the shadow minister, the member for Condamine, for his civil manner and decent questioning in both this and the energy portfolio areas. I also must commend the shadow minister for transport, the member for Chatsworth, who came in via video with reasonable questioning and respect for the process. I thank our deputy chair, the member for Gregory, and the other committee members, the members for Mount Ommaney, Ipswich, Toowoomba North and Callide, for their participation on the day. I thank the ministers, their staff, the directors-general and their department GOC executives for their participation on the day. A number of non-committee members attended and I thank them for their participation. I hope they can be more professional next time. I would like our committee members to be given the opportunity to ask more questions on the day, because they work hard and they deserve that.

My thanks go to Hansard, the parliamentary staff and everyone who worked hard on the day. We were a hybrid of the estimates process. Because of the delta strain outbreak, our hearing was held in the Undumbi room and I think it worked really well. The setup was as good as, if not better than, the normal process. I commend all the parliamentary staff who facilitated that so that we could complete the estimates hearings. We had a good day. It was a very long day but I think we got a lot done. I commend the report to the House.