



Speech By  
**Steve Minnikin**

**MEMBER FOR CHATSWORTH**

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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 MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (5.41 pm): Firstly, I would like to congratulate the staff and the members of the Transport and Resources Committee for the great work they did in terms of the preparation for the estimates process.

I would like to start by quoting Budget Paper No. 1. Page 43 sets the framework for the tone with which we went about our estimates questioning. It states—

... at all times our government will continue to respect and honour the trust and confidence placed in us by Queenslanders.

That word ‘trust’ is interesting. They use the words ‘trust’ and ‘integrity’ but then bring in the member for Miller and Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Last week I held meetings with delegations in Mackay and Rockhampton. Whether they be bus drivers and bus operators or heavy vehicle operators—it is almost an absolute misnomer—people do not equate trust with this particular minister.

The member for Gregory, who spoke before me, set out in the statement of reservation a range of issues that related to integrity. He mentioned Wilsons Boathouse. In the interests of time, we will prosecute that at a future date. I want to talk about other issues, including Cross River Rail, rail safety and the maintenance backlog.

In relation to the vexed question of Cross River Rail, we have made it perfectly clear that the LNP supports the need for Cross River Rail. We have also gone to great lengths to say that we do realise that if the assets—

**Mr Bailey** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Lui): Member for Miller.

**Mr Bailey**: Don’t lie.

**Mr MINNIKIN**: That is not parliamentary. Madam Deputy Speaker, I take offence at the use of the word ‘lie’ towards me. I ask that it be withdrawn. I take personal offence.

**Mr BAILEY**: I withdraw.

**Mr MINNIKIN**: Before she left, the previous minister said that Cross River Rail was on budget and on target. The current minister has repeatedly said that Cross River Rail—the \$5.4 billion project—is on track and on budget. We will need to do a bit more research—and we will—in relation to ANZ

Research's Australian Major Projects report of February this year. I refer to page 11. As I go down this list of projects throughout Australia I see that Cross River Rail has a cost projection of A\$6.7 billion. That is something we will continue to prosecute because, to be quite frank, we do not trust the minister's integrity when he gets up in this chamber and says, 'This project started off at \$5.4 billion but, despite a complete change to the scoping of the project'—some of that we raised during the estimates process—'it will still be \$5.4 billion.' It will not be \$5.4 billion. It is interesting that in a document released only a matter of days ago there is another authority saying 6.7. My take will be—kerching!—just wait and see the cash register continue to grow. We have grave concerns about Cross River Rail.

I would also like to point out that the minister, as we all know, was described by the CCC as foolish. That is something that will never be erased from his parliamentary record.

If we have a look at the whole essence of Cross River Rail, if we go back to basics, the reality is that Infrastructure Australia never supported the project. We go back to the gift that keeps on giving: the previous member for South Brisbane. I go back to an AAP Australian Newswire dated May 2017. It states—

Queensland Deputy Premier Jackie Trad has been contradicted over claims Infrastructure Australia has no issues with the ... business case.

It goes on—

But—

there is always a 'but'—

Infrastructure Australia on Friday said it did have concerns about the proposed rail tunnel.

"IA has a number of outstanding concerns with the Cross River Rail business case and we have advised the Queensland government of these concerns" ...

The bottom line is: trust and integrity are anathema when it comes to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Disgraceful!