




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

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COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (3.31 pm): It is always interesting to listen to members of the opposition. The member for Toowoomba South talks about cynicism, which is a bit rich coming from the LNP when talking about committee processes. I appreciate the member was not in parliament when they were last in government, but his is the party that truncated the entire estimates process into two days. The media had to try to cover every single committee. The committees were all sitting at once, all over the place. The media were jumping from room to room, trying to figure out which committee they would film. That is understandable because the same party is so much about transparency that they stopped filming in the chamber—because we wouldn't want the public watching! Anything they promise to do if elected we have heard before. We can only assume that what they would actually do is exactly what they did last time they were in government. Anyone who believes that if in government they would make a non-government member the chair of a committee is being fanciful.

A government member: They sacked her.

Mrs D'ATH: They do sack committees, yes. They sacked the PCCC members because they did not like what they were doing.

Mr Bleijie: They disclosed committee business on Twitter. That is what they did.

Mrs D'ATH: I take that interjection. They released information from a committee. If any members opposite release from a committee anything confidential that should not be released, I assume it will be suggested that they immediately resign from their position. I look forward to seeing that the next time there is a breach of confidentiality from a committee.

As Leader of the House I want to put on the record my thanks to the Queensland parliament for their efforts during the past year in putting in place measures to ensure that the people's house continues to function during COVID-19. It has not been easy. I really appreciate that work, including the work done throughout the estimates process and during lockdowns. I acknowledge and thank the staff.

I agree with what the Speaker said during the estimates hearing. In response to the member for Maiwar, he said—

In terms of the estimates process per se, not particularly. I say that because I do not believe the process is fundamentally broken. I believe that it is a very beneficial process. As always, it is a process that works best when all members who are participating take it seriously and ask important questions. I go back to the point I made that it is not about the politics. It is not about the theatre. It is about scrutiny. In my experience from answering questions and asking questions, the best outcomes of an estimates process always happen as result of that.

I believe that it also comes down to respect.

We did not see much respect from the opposition during the estimates process. We saw grandstanding. There was lots of arm waving. I would not say they were going for the gold Logie but certainly the silver Logie with their over-the-top speeches and attempts at questions. While I can speak

firsthand about my estimates, I have also heard from colleagues about the way those opposite conducted themselves in the other hearings. They really should hang their heads in shame. They constantly talked over members, the chairperson and witnesses. Throwing their hands around and storming out were all part of the opposition playbook and theatre at this year's estimates hearings, which was shocking but sadly not surprising.

We tallied the number of times the member for Mudgeeraba and her colleagues interrupted during my hearing alone. I think the member for Logan has already advised the House of this. It was at least 62 times. Every time I tried to speak I was interrupted. Those on the other side say that the report is just statistics and that it does not talk about the quality of the answers or the questions. We could not give an answer without being interrupted constantly. For those opposite it was not about the question or the answer; it was about the theatre, the theatrics and the politics of estimates.

Mr Brown interjected.

Mrs D'ATH: I forgot about the shark mask. I thank the member for Capalaba and I take that interjection. The shark mask—honestly! Estimates is a serious process and we are there to answer questions and have our representatives there. I saw officials from the department being badgered constantly. When people are verballed and interrupted constantly, the opposition has no credibility.