



Speech By  
**Ali King**

**MEMBER FOR PUMICESTONE**

---

Record of Proceedings, 16 August 2022


## **APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL**

### **APPROPRIATION BILL**

#### **Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)**

#### **Appropriation Bill**

#### **Health and Environment Committee, Report**

 **Ms KING** (Pumicestone—ALP) (5.05 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the 2022 Health and Environment Committee's estimates report. I thank Minister D'Ath and Minister Scanlon for their dedication to making sure that Queenslanders have the best possible health care and the best possible natural environment to enjoy. Estimates this year absolutely confirmed that our government has delivered on our commitment to Queenslanders to give them more jobs, better services and protect our great Queensland lifestyle. The contrast with those opposite could not be clearer.

There was plenty of opportunity for questions by those opposite digging into all of our budget investments in health, all of the innovative measures we are embarking on to address the issues we face as an ageing population with decreasing private health and increasing acuity and the impressive infrastructure program. In fact, non-government members, as we have heard, got four hours of questions versus government members who got 1.5 hours of questions.

Sadly, LNP committee members asked not one question when it came to health—although I note the comments of the member for Lytton that there may have been one from the deputy chair. The entire process was handed over to the member for Broadwater and the member for Mudgeeraba as a political sideshow. That is because when it comes to health the LNP are not interested in Queenslanders having good health care; they are only interested in shabby, political pointscore. The LNP are not interested in Queenslanders except insofar as they can try to manipulate the narrative for political gain. They did not want to talk about the biggest health budget in Queensland's history, \$22.2 billion last year—

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member for Nanango is warned under the standing orders.

**Ms KING:**—and \$23.6 billion in 2022-23. The member for Broadwater was not interested in our commitment to building a new Queensland cancer centre of excellence that will save thousands of lives and improve the quality of life of thousands more. Personally, I am so proud of our half a billion dollar investment in health infrastructure in and around my Pumicestone communities, whatever the member for Mudgeeraba may say in her and the member for Broadwater's dodgy health town halls or whatever they like to call them.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms KING:** Dodgy as! We have not one but two world-leading satellite hospitals, as well as a \$450 million upgrade to our world-class Caboolture Hospital.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms KING:** Mr Speaker, I will ask for your assistance. I am having trouble hearing.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. The member for Theodore is warned under the standing orders. The member for Thuringowa is also warned under the standing orders. The member for Bonney had an opportunity to make a contribution and he still had more to say. You are warned under the standing orders as well.

**Ms KING:** Members opposite were not interested in the 9,475 additional health workers our government will be bringing on board by 2024 or the very welcome announcement on estimates day by our minister of an extra 770 new graduate nurses to be employed each year. It is going to make a profound difference to our healthcare system. It is no wonder, because this is the member who sat around the cabinet table and sacked over 4,000 health workers. Queenslanders will never, ever forget that. This was the mob that planned not one new hospital for Queensland, but they never hesitate to talk down our health system and the dedicated men and women who kept it running during a global pandemic.

Most of all, the Leader of the Opposition did not want to talk about COVID. We are in a global pandemic where up to eight per cent of healthcare workers are off work at any given time. We have had up to 1,000 people in our hospitals with COVID at any given time, but the LNP did not see fit to ask a single question. It is shameful.

Over the next two years we will get to see even more clearly what the LNP would do if they got a chance at the reins of government because they have already told us: they would run down our healthcare system, they would attack our healthcare workers, they would cut services and they would sack workers. That is their record. That is what they stand for.

Turning to Caboolture Hospital, I remind those opposite that when our Labor government sought to build the Caboolture Hospital in the first place they said it was not needed. When we announced the \$450 million upgrade to make Caboolture Hospital twice the size and bigger and better than ever, they said it was a political stunt and that it was not needed. Shame on them!

The LNP deny the reality of delivering health care to Queenslanders during a global pandemic and they do that while failing utterly to follow the health advice. I join the federal member for Kooyong in asking, 'Where are your masks?' Shame!

**Mr SPEAKER:** Through the chair.

**Ms KING:** We in this place are meant to be leaders. The LNP health circus rolls into town, they talk down our healthcare system, they talk down our healthcare workers and they refer to people as butchers.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock.

**Ms KING:** They are a disgrace. They have always been a disgrace.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! When members to my left are finished. I was trying to call the House to order for some time. I could not be heard, even with the big microphone. Members to my left, once the clock has expired I will be affording the member for Pumicestone some additional time, as is my prerogative as Speaker. The House will come to order. Member for Pumicestone, please continue.

**Ms KING:** When the LNP health circus rolls into town in communities like mine, it has a profoundly negative effect on the morale of our healthcare workers and the sense of safety and wellbeing of our community, and I say shame on them! We see the LNP approach to health every single day. They show up to chat to doctors and nurses, and then they roll the cameras and call people butchers. They are disgraceful.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member's time has expired.

**Ms KING:** This was a strong health budget and I congratulate the minister.

*(Time expired)*