



Speech By  
**Cynthia Lui**

**MEMBER FOR COOK**

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Record of Proceedings, 17 August 2022


## **APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL**

### **APPROPRIATION BILL**

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

#### **Appropriation Bill**

#### **Community Support and Services Committee, Report**

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (3.11 pm): I rise to speak in support of the 2022-23 budget estimates. On 24 June, the Appropriation Bill 2022 and the estimates for the committee's areas of responsibility were referred to the Community Support and Services Committee for investigation and report. I would like to acknowledge the Hon. Leeanne Enoch, the Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts; the Hon. Craig Crawford, the Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships; and the Hon. Leanne Linard, the Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs. I acknowledge their commitment to improving the lives of Queenslanders every day under their respective portfolios. I also acknowledge the great work of the Community Support and Services Committee; our committee chair, Corrine McMillan; the committee deputy chair, Mr Stephen Bennett; and the member for Oodgeroo, the member for Maiwar and the member for Nicklin. I acknowledge the committee secretariat, Hansard and all public servants.

On August 2022, the committee conducted a public hearing and took evidence about the proposed expenditure from the relevant ministers and other witnesses. The committee followed a careful process to examine the government's expenditure and, as such, encouraged transparency in all government operations. The estimates proceedings gave all members of the committee an opportunity to ask questions of the ministers and to hear their responses. All in all, the process ran very well and I commend the committee for their commitment to the estimates process.

It is fantastic to see investments pouring in to the areas of communities, housing and the digital economy to provide Queenslanders with more options. In 2022-23, the total investment in the capital program for the Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy will be \$566.2 million. This includes \$431.3 million to increase the supply of social housing, upgrade the existing social housing property portfolio and further invest in infrastructure projects across community, arts and cultural facilities. The 2022-23 capital grants budgeted expenditure of \$134.9 million will principally increase the supply of social housing and enable upgrades to existing housing properties, in partnership with community housing providers and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander councils. I know that councils in my electorate will welcome that.

We are investing more into services that are doing incredible work in communities to influence social outcomes for Queenslanders. Organisations such as community and neighbourhood centres do incredible work. I acknowledge the important work that they do. The government has invested \$51.8 million to increase neighbourhood and community centre based operational funding to ensure the ongoing viability of, and maximum benefit from, social services infrastructure. I am pleased that in my electorate neighbourhood centres in Port Douglas and Mossman will benefit from that injection of funds.

We heard from Minister Crawford about his department's expenditure. I want to make special mention of the budget that we have allocated to the Office of the Commissioner, Meriba Omasker Kazip. We have invested \$3 million over two years to support First Nations families to make applications for legal recognition of Torres Strait Islander traditional child-rearing practices by continuing to operationalise the Meriba Omasker Kazip (Torres Strait Islander Traditional Child Rearing Practice) Act 2020. It has been three years since that important act was passed here in the parliament and it has been over a year since we accepted and processed our first application. I commend the work of the commissioner and all of his staff in giving legal recognition to kids who were disadvantaged before.

Young people are our future. It is important that we give every young person the opportunities that they deserve to participate fully in society. I acknowledge Minister Linard and her department for their hard work and ongoing support to some of the most vulnerable and marginalised young people in the state. Government investment into the Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs means that we can continue to support families to safely care for their children and young people; provide services to support the safety, belonging and wellbeing of children and young people; and keep communities safe by working together to prevent offending and reduce reoffending. I commend the Community Support and Services Committee report to the House.