



Speech By
Daniel Purdie

MEMBER FOR NINDERRY

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APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation Bill

Economics and Governance Committee, Report

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (12.37 pm): As a member of the Economics and Governance Committee, I rise to speak on the Appropriation Bill estimates report 2022. For all intents and purposes, the estimates process is an opportunity to scrutinise the government's expenditure as outlined in the budget. A diligent government prioritises funding on the basis of its election promises and the delivery of essential services. It bases these decisions on what matters to Queenslanders. A diligent government is one that listens and is responsive to the needs of the community.

However, as we are now well and truly realising, this is not a government that listens to Queenslanders and, very clearly, its priorities are not meeting the expectations of taxpayers. If we consider the government's budget a key tool of accountability, the estimates process has revealed the depths to which this third-term Labor administration has sunk in order to avoid accountability and shirk its responsibilities. The budget is characterised by many shortcomings that were exposed during the estimates process. While that was not surprising, the level of neglect, waste and disregard for accountability and transparency that this government has been hiding behind was surprising. The tone for estimates was set on the very first day when the respected Clerk was forced to apologise in advance. He said in a general sense that the current estimates process was not working as well as what was envisaged in 2011 after an overhaul. In fact, he said, things had gotten worse.

It should come as no surprise that all of Labor's usual tactics of subterfuge, distraction, obstruction and interference were being rolled out. It was not enough, though, to stop the truth finally being revealed. The Palaszczuk government's extraordinary incompetence was exposed throughout the estimates process, which revealed that an extra \$3 billion of taxpayer money has been wasted. Queenslanders finally learned that Wellcamp cost Queenslanders well over \$200 million. We also found out that a \$2 million advertising strategy produced just two tradies, while millions of dollars allocated to a koala lab were put into a new roller-coaster. Taxpayer money continues to be used to stop a report about Jackie Trad being made public, while 30 complaints have been made to the CCC regarding the QBCC. What about the electricity rebate Queenslanders have been waiting for? Well, the cheque is still in the mail because the government never told energy retailers to provide it.

We also learned that Cross River Rail has blown out to \$8 billion and that the energy sector's IT upgrade has blown out by \$186 million. Unfortunately for anyone needing urgent medical attention, ambulance ramping has hit a new high, at 45 per cent. We also found out that, instead of reporting poor

performance, this government simply scraps the target. The satellite hospitals that were promised have been delayed and are already over budget, while the government has also failed to deliver on the promise to employ 6,000 teachers, police numbers have failed to keep pace with population growth and it will take 25 years to deliver on the social housing promise. Almost \$1 million was spent on the Caloundra youth jail before the project was scrapped and the government will simply write off \$4 million of small business grants made in error.