



Speech By
James Martin

MEMBER FOR STRETTON

Record of Proceedings, 17 August 2022


APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation Bill

Transport and Resources Committee, Report

 **Mr MARTIN** (Stretton—ALP) (12.21 pm): I am pleased to report to the House that the estimates hearing for the Transport and Resources Committee was successful, enabling Queenslanders to hear from government ministers about some of the fantastic things the Palaszczuk government is doing to create jobs, improve services and protect our great Queensland lifestyle. My thanks go to all the committee members, including the member for Kurwongbah and chair of the committee, who kept things flowing and productive. I echo the sentiments of the member for Kurwongbah about the member for Gregory. As a government member of parliament, I can say that he is a great deputy chair.

From the Minister for Transport we heard about this government's strong commitment to public transport improvements across the state, including in my local area. The public transport system is absolutely essential to having a balanced transport network overall. We are investing in better rail systems with Cross River Rail, the Kuraby-Beenleigh double track duplication and station upgrades. These upgrades will decrease travel time for rail commuters by getting express trains through the network much faster and make life much easier for road users by removing level crossings.

There is huge support for the removal of the Kuraby level crossing and I am proud to be part of a government that has delivered this for my community. It will make school pick-ups and drop-offs easier and safer. It will allow people to get to work and home sooner, with less time spent on the road. My community is eager to see the project completed and I will keep them updated on its progress. I have had overwhelming and positive feedback about this from my local community. Kuraby State School, Kuraby Special School and the Kuraby Mosque are located near the Kuraby crossing. It is a big win for the people in my local area. Our thanks go to Minister Bailey for listening and delivering that important upgrade for my area.

In addition, we heard important news about the Coopers Plains level crossing. Unfortunately, the project is being held up by the LNP in the Brisbane City Council. We have funding commitments from the federal and state governments but, strangely, there is nothing from the Brisbane City Council. I am not sure what the LNP has against the people who use that road, but I encourage them to do the right thing by the community in this case.

We are committed to making sure that public transport is improved to get people out of cars and into public transport. We are ordering high-quality disability-compliant trains that are made right here in Queensland. We are also investing \$1.5 billion over four years to upgrade roads and support driver education and safety campaigns.

One of those road upgrades is happening in my local area at the intersection of Illaweenah Street and Beaudesert Road. Many cars travel through that intersection every day. The Palaszczuk government has committed \$30 million for improvements to extend the road to six lanes, add signalised left turns and pedestrian crossings, improve cycle access, upgrade bus stops and provide shared paths. This is a big deal for the mums, dads and grandparents who do the school run in my community, especially those who live in Drewvale. They have been calling for this and are very appreciative that it is happening. I was very pleased to visit the site with Minister Bailey and Minister Enoch only a couple of weeks ago, just before construction started.

In addition to transport, investing in energy is very important. We know that cost-of-living pressures have been tough on Queenslanders, which is why earlier this year we announced the \$175 cost-of-living rebate that will be applied to electricity bills for all Queenslanders. As the Minister for Energy and Public Works says, we are able to do this because Queensland's power assets are publicly owned, meaning we can share in the dividends. That rebate builds on our \$50 asset ownership dividend, which was announced earlier in the year. That is a total of \$575 in dividends over the past four years. Since 2017 total cost-of-living assistance amounts to nearly \$1.2 billion. All of that money has gone straight back into the pockets of Queenslanders because Queenslanders own their electricity assets, not corporate shareholders.

Another thing that I was very interested to hear about from Minister de Brenni is our investment in renewable hydrogen, which is another major part of our plan to create heavy industry jobs. We are well positioned to scale up a hydrogen economy using our abundant renewable energy resources and technical and research capabilities. Recently, I visited the Motor Trades Association of Queensland to check out the hydrogen vehicles.

(Time expired)