



Speech By
Joan Pease

MEMBER FOR LYTTON

Record of Proceedings, 16 August 2022


APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation Bill

Health and Environment Committee, Report

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (4.54 pm): I have to agree with the member for Mudgeeraba—I know that is a shock to everyone—because Queenslanders definitely do not like being taken for a ride. Is it too soon to perhaps remind you of the very fact that in 2015 your LNP government was completely annihilated because you were found out—

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Lytton, you will direct your comments through the chair.

Ms PEASE: Perhaps the member for Mudgeeraba and all of the LNP opposite—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my left.

Ms PEASE: I rise today to speak in support of report No. 22 of the Health and Environment Committee. The committee has recommended that the proposed expenditure as detailed in the Appropriation Bill 2022 for the committee's areas of responsibility be agreed to without amendment. Firstly, I wish to begin by acknowledging the amazing work of all of our public servants. I would like to thank them for their hard work delivering services to Queenslanders from Coolangatta to Cooktown and everything to the west and in-between because, unlike those opposite, we actually value the work of our public servants. Each and every year, day in, day out, they look after our communities and all Queenslanders. They are the backbone of all of our communities during a pandemic, during a natural disaster and during all the good times. I thank them.

To our Premier, Anastacia Palaszczuk, thank you for staying strong, standing up for Queenslanders and working to ensure that we have a strong health and economic recovery and thanks also to the Treasurer, the Hon. Cameron Dick, who has delivered a great Labor budget.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PEASE: I might add that I am just reiterating the words of the members opposite, so I thank them for admitting that. I appreciate that and I will back them in that.

This budget delivers good jobs, better services and a great lifestyle, because that is what Labor does. We care about each other. Yes, we do: we care about each other, we listen to each other and we deliver for Queenslanders. We know how important it is to deliver for Queenslanders. I also acknowledge and congratulate the Hon. Yvette D'Ath, Minister for Health and Ambulance Services, and

the Hon. Meaghan Scanlon MP, Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs. Both of them never cease to amaze me with their thorough knowledge of their portfolio areas. After listening to all of the estimates hearings, the same can be said for the Premier and all of our ministers from this side of the House. No wonder Queensland is the place to be, with tens of thousands of people moving to Queensland, and our economy is thriving.

Our record investment in health is yet again an example of our Labor values, delivering a record \$23.6 billion in the 2022-23 health budget which will address pressures in the short term and deliver long-term improvement and include infrastructure, more beds, a larger workforce, a focus on mental health and further innovative reforms on our health system. This budget and the record investment will transform our health system to meet the demands of tomorrow. Those of my fellow committee members who participated in the review of the health system would be well aware of the many pressures that are on our health system at the moment due to the crisis in primary health care and the delivery of services in our communities, the extra presentations in our hospitals due to a lack of GP clinics and the NDIS not supporting people in the community either.

The Palaszczuk government has continued to make significant strides in protecting and delivering for our environment. We have announced a \$2.1 billion package for our war on waste to increase recycling and create more jobs in resource recovery. We have returned more than 160,000 hectares of land, including the Daintree National Park, back to traditional owners, which is particularly important on a day like today with our Path to Treaty. We have acquired the largest parcel of land for conservation in more than a decade. We gave a number of single-use plastics the flick, banning plastics like straws, cutlery, plates and polystyrene food containers, and we have released a five-year road map to phase out even more. I am so proud to be part of this government.

Predictably, the LNP members did their usual during estimates. The Leader of the Opposition and shadow minister for health showed their true colours. They were argumentative, misleading, questioning the integrity of our hardworking public servants and, of course, delivered a ridiculous dissenting report. There was not one question—perhaps the deputy chair did have one question. His bosses decided that they wanted to win some more ‘gotcha’ moments. They failed, of course.

We did get to hear from the member for Bonney and sometimes from the member for Broadwater in the environment space. Again, it was a verballing of our hardworking public servants. It was a member trying his best to be grown up. By his manner of questioning he came across as a petulant little boy and I am pleased he is not my son.

(Time expired)