




Speech By
Joan Pease

MEMBER FOR LYTTON

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COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (3.45 pm): Whilst I for once agree with the member for Glass House that the report is relatively inoffensive and non-controversial, I cannot say that about his other comments. It is disappointing that he would get up and be so critical—

Mr Krause: So surprising!

Ms PEASE: It is not surprising really—talk about whingefest; that is all we hear from that side. In the *Report on the 2022 budget estimates process*, we actually did a review of the budget process. As in previous years, the estimates hearings were reported live on parliamentary TV and were streamed. I would like to thank all of the staff who worked on that day and in the preparation work during the lead-up to the estimates hearings. A lot of work goes into that, as we can imagine. A lot of public servants do a lot of work, as do the parliamentary staff, because a lot of people get involved in the estimates process. I want to acknowledge that work, whether it be the Hansard reporters, the PA people, the IT people or the parliamentary secretariat. They do a lot of work in that area.

I would like to disagree slightly with my friend and colleague the member for Capalaba. He said that it was not controversial and that the opposition behaved themselves during the parliamentary estimates hearings. In my committee and in many of the others I listened to, their behaviour was of the usual poor standard. They spent their time casting aspersions on public servants. It was a disgrace, but that is what they do. They pick on our hardworking public servants who stand up and work on behalf of the Public Service. It is all good and well to ask questions about what they do, but it is actually not appropriate to cast aspersions on their personality or what they have done in their life. It was a disgrace. All of those people over there know what I am talking about because we pulled them up each and every time. They talk about a protection racket; there was no protection racket. What we were doing was looking after our public servants and protecting them from the disgraceful behaviour of those opposite.

Their behaviour was not surprising. We expect nothing less from them because they have got nothing to deliver, apart from casting aspersions on hardworking public servants. They do it all of the time. If they cannot sack them, they will cast aspersions on them. We know that is what they do. They sacked 14,000 members of the Public Service. If they cannot do that, they will muddy the waters and make them look bad. It is a disgrace. They come in here and do the same; they try to pick on someone else. It is very disappointing.

Let me talk about the times. I can talk about the numbers and bore the House with that. The length of the committee process was 54.45 hours. The government questioning went for 19 hours in total, yet the non-government questioning went for 29 hours and 43 minutes. Most of that questioning was picking on public servants and casting aspersions on them. There were 1,233 questions, which is pretty amazing. The total number of government questions was 298. Therefore, of the 1,233 questions, 298 were put by the government and 935 were put by the opposition and non-government members. That is three times the number.

I would like to acknowledge the work of the chairs because they did do really well. It is a difficult time. They have to juggle many things: ensuring the standing orders are adhered to and ensuring the appropriate treatment of the people who are brought into the committees as 'special envoys' because the members of committees do not very often get a chance to ask a question of people like that—if they do, it is like, 'Whacko, we've got a question!'—but generally it is people who are wheeled in and pushed forward to answer questions. The chairs have to manage all that and make sure all the paperwork is in leading up to the estimates hearings. It is a really interesting process because you know there is a set menu; they know what they have to do, they come in and follow the plan. I commend the report to the House.