



Speech By  
**Lachlan Millar**

**MEMBER FOR GREGORY**

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Record of Proceedings, 17 August 2022


## **APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL**

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

#### **Appropriation Bill**

#### **Legal Affairs and Safety Committee, Report**

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (2.56 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate about the estimates process. The questions that I wanted to ask probably go back to last term with regard to a couple of things where we need to find out what is going on. We need to find out what is happening with the SES review. Where is it? What is happening with it? It has been sitting on the minister's desk. It was sitting on the previous minister's desk for a while. It is now sitting on this minister's desk. I can tell the House that volunteers and councils are absolutely frustrated with this whole process. There are councils that have limited money but are more than willing to donate to their SES to ensure they have the right equipment, from chainsaws to boats to vehicles, and access to all equipment. However, we have an SES review that has been sitting on a desk this term and last term. There has again been a review that is just sitting on a desk with no action taken. It is frustrating.

Volunteers are not paid people; these are people who work in their community but donate their time to wonderful organisations like the SES and they want to get this review settled. They want to know their direction, and it is getting harder and harder to get people to volunteer for these groups. We have what they call volunteer fatigue. The government sitting on a report and not releasing it and not acting on it only frustrates those people more and gives them more reason to say, 'Why do I do it?' Over the next couple of months, when things start to dry out, we possibly might have a bushfire situation like we saw a couple of years ago. We need to have our rural fires, our SES and our volunteers ready to go and wanting to participate. They need to protect properties and put fires out. It is important, so I ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services: where is that review and why is he not acting on it?

The other review which is still sitting on a desk—and it has been going for a long time—is the Blue Water review regarding the volunteer Coast Guard and VMR. They want to know what direction they are going in, because that is the only service people have when they are out at sea and their boat is taking on water. The only people going out to get them are either a Coast Guard or a VMR and they want some certainty.

The Minister for Emergency Services in the last term had the Blue Water Review. It has been handed to the current minister, but he is still sitting on it. VMR and Coast Guard deserve respect. They deserve to have the ability to say, 'This is our path forward.' It is not that hard. Can the Labor government make a decision, please, to ensure that our VMR and Coast Guard are going in the right direction? Stop sitting on these reports. As I said, councils and volunteers are getting frustrated and we are giving them

a reason not to be a part of it. They provide a valuable service. There is volunteer fatigue out there. I would also like to talk about youth crime. We hear a lot about youth crime in the south-east and in Townsville and Cairns.

**Mr Lister:** Gundy as well.

**Mr MILLAR:** I will take the interjection from the member for Southern Downs. Youth crime is in regional Queensland. People are getting sick of it. We need to get back to making breach of bail an offence for youth. We have crime right throughout regional Queensland. To see this, one only has to talk to the Baumans from the Dingo Roadhouse, which is a very popular roadhouse and a very important piece of infrastructure along the Capricorn Highway. They are now having to lock their doors at night when people come and fuel up for fear of being held up due to the youth crime situation or cars being stolen from the Dingo Roadhouse. It goes from Rockhampton all the way along the Capricorn Highway, through Emerald and Blackwater and out to the Gemfields. There is a crime epidemic out there at the moment.