



Speech By
Linus Power

MEMBER FOR LOGAN

Record of Proceedings, 16 August 2022


APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation (Parliament) Bill

Economics and Governance Committee, Report

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (11.23 am): It is not often I agree with the member for Kawana, but a few years ago I heard him say that this building is Queensland's pre-eminent heritage building and collectively we have a great responsibility to this parliament. I have not agreed with him since, but those are sentiments that we endorse in the 29th report of the Economics and Governance Committee. I recognise the important role the Speaker and Clerk play in administering this budget, but I also recognise that it is about much more than the simple historic preservation of this incredible building. This building is much more than inert stone, glass and timber: it preserves the living heritage of 162 years of continuous democracy. This legacy and living heritage are not to be taken lightly or for granted. It needs to be supported, modernised and backed by appropriate technology.

At the estimates hearings I made a special effort to recognise not only our secretariat—who do a fantastic job in supporting us—but of course Lindsay and the AV team and the Hansard team. They use that funding to stream our examination of this budget directly to Queenslanders. I know they did a great job, but I did not know that Hansard—who did a great job giving us the transcript so quickly—is using this budget to implement the latest in automatic speech recognition technology to modernise existing processes to enable a quicker turnaround producing our official record. We recognise that all of this goes on behind the scenes and that the parliament is modernising both its processes and physical surrounds.

What I am really disappointed about—this is a particular disappointment—is that in their dissenting report the opposition lodged a simple cut-and-paste list of reservations for both reports 29 and 30 which the Economics and Governance Committee so carefully prepared. This cut-and-paste job about parliamentary appropriations had almost nothing to do with the parliamentary budget. The Appropriation (Parliament) Bill is separate because it is so vital. It had nothing to do with the parliamentary budget, nothing really to do with our hearing and our questions on notice. It shows the disdain the LNP has and seems to show a lack of care for this valuable institution. We deserve better than a simple cut-and-paste job. I call on the LNP to address issues in the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill separately rather than repeat the cut-and-paste job they did for both reports.

I am pleased to report to the parliament that the committee only made one recommendation in their report: that the expenditure for the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service as detailed in the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2020 be agreed by the Legislative Assembly without amendment.