



Speech By
Shane King

MEMBER FOR KURWONGBAH

Record of Proceedings, 17 August 2022


APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation Bill

Transport and Resources Committee, Report

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (12.03 pm): Today I rise to speak to the estimates report tabled by the Transport and Resources Committee, with this report being No. 20 from our committee. Our committee's estimates hearing went from 9 am to 8.15 pm, and it is always a very long day. This year it seemed to be the estimates of repeated questions. I sincerely hope that those opposite do not complain about time being wasted this year, because they were certainly a little bit guilty of this by asking the same question again and again and again—admittedly slightly differently—but the same question will always get the same answer. On that, I will say that non-government members did get significantly more time than government members, as always when I am chairing.

Generally proceedings were conducted civilly with the usual back and forth between the transport minister and the member for Chatsworth, who was once again trying to make some point about Cross River Rail costings. He seemed frustrated that the facts did not line up with his agenda, but, as always, I would like to thank the member for Chatsworth for a mature interrogation of the budget. I always make a point of allowing just about every question to proceed to ministers and officials despite the imputation and arguments in most of them. However, one or two from the member for Everton were basically loaded statements and had to be rephrased. However, the minister was given the opportunity to answer even those questions. The final session with the Minister for Resources brightened the evening with some poetry, dad jokes and even a Spice Girls analogy, which, at the end of a long day, let me just say, was a welcome addition.

The questions during the day highlighted some great achievements of the Palaszczuk government. Some of those resonated with me, and one that did was to improve the connectivity, access, safety and pollution response of our maritime services and infrastructure through the Maritime Infrastructure Investment Program which will enhance the sustainability of the industry. We are seeking to revitalise coastal shipping and create maritime jobs in Queensland, which was a recommendation of a previous committee I chaired in the last parliament. Our future maritime industry workers will not exist unless we get more workers trained locally on Australian-flagged vessels. With the Great Barrier Reef being so close and valuable to us, our future Maritime Safety Queensland pilot boat captains must come from somewhere. We are also continuing the War on Wrecks program to remove derelict and abandoned vessels in Queensland waterways, and that can only be a good thing.

The energy and public works portfolio brought us a few topics also close to my heart. We heard about the \$35 million held centrally for feasibility works on further pumped hydro energy storage sites. This is exciting because, as we know, Wivenhoe's pumped storage helped save the network during the failure of a coal-fired generator at Callide recently. QBuild progressing its high-quality apprenticeship program also grabbed my interest. As we know, money invested in apprenticeships is something we on this side all get and it always returns dividends.

As I said earlier, the resources portfolio questioning was a decent process, albeit with some entertaining answers, and I commend the shadow minister, the member for Condamine, for his civil manner and decent questioning in both this and in the energy portfolio areas. I once again commend the shadow minister for transport, the member for Chatsworth, for his respect for the process. I want to thank all of our committee members. I will put out there that our deputy chair, the member for Gregory, has to be the best deputy chair in the parliament.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr KING: I would almost call him 'comrade'. I also thank committee members, the members for Stretton, Mundingburra, Toowoomba North and Callide, for their participation on the day. I again want to thank the ministers, their staff, directors-general, their departments and GOC executives for their participation. We had several non-committee members who attended on the day to question the ministers, directors-general and CEOs. I want to thank them for their participation and hope some of them can get more professional one day. One year we will have a perfect estimates; I hope I live that long!

Thanks also to Hansard, parliamentary attendant staff and our hardworking Transport and Resources Committee secretariat for all of their work in preparation for estimates and on the day. In particular, I want to thank Deb for putting up with me as chair for the last term and a half. Our new secretary will have big shoes to fill. I commend the report to the House.