



Speech By  
**Shane Knuth**


**MEMBER FOR HILL**

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Record of Proceedings, 1 December 2022

**COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**Report, Motion to Take Note**

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (3.55 pm): I rise to speak on the report on the 2022 budget estimates process as a member of the Committee of the Legislative Assembly. I acknowledge the members of the committee and their hard work and dedication throughout the year and the CLA's role in supporting governance within the parliament. I also acknowledge some of the things the CLA has done, particularly in terms of securing an extra staff allowance and the CLA's assistance in finally securing the rightful provision of full-time parliamentary staff officers to each crossbench member which has been lobbied for for over 30 years. This previously was at the discretion of the government but is now being placed in the hands of the Queensland Independent Remuneration Tribunal. This helps to ensure parity and equality for the opposition, Independents and minor parties.

The current estimates process needs to be overhauled. For example, the estimates process in the Victorian parliament is solely for the opposition and crossbenchers to hold the government of the day to account. However, here in Queensland it is just another tool used by state governments to control the narrative. The current estimates process heavily favours the government and it is difficult to justify flying thousands of kilometres to Brisbane to barely get a couple of minutes to ask very important questions during the estimates hearings. This is because the time is not allocated evenly amongst MPs, with the government receiving a large slice of the time. This gives no real value to the estimates process which has become a back-slapping exercise and a non-event.

I have raised previously a number of areas that can be tidied up to ensure better transparency and efficiency to ensure equality across all members of the House which includes allowing only the opposition and crossbench members the exclusive right to ask questions of the government and hold them to account; allowing questions from non-government members to be submitted prior to the hearings so that the hearings can be dedicated to follow-up questions; transforming the process to allow a free flowing of questions to the minister and senior bureaucrats without the severe time allocation that reduces the ability of the non-government members to continue a line of questioning; and removing up-front ministerial statements as ministers already get a chance to tell the committee how good their government is when answering questions during estimates. Thank you for the opportunity to address these issues.