



Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

Record of Proceedings, 17 August 2022


APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation Bill

Legal Affairs and Safety Committee, Report

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (2.30 pm): I thank the House for giving me the opportunity to speak on the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee's budget estimates report. I want to thank the committee for their work, particularly the committee chair, Peter Russo MP.

I was very proud to once again discuss all of the important work being delivered by the department. Ensuring Queensland has a modern, fit-for-purpose justice system is a core priority of our government. Once again, it was very disappointing to see that the LNP is not interested in the issues that matter. They did not want to ask questions about our unprecedented bumper justice budget or any of the historic work we are doing to protect victims of domestic and family violence. The member for Scenic Rim, who sat on the committee, did not ask a question about the \$22 million we are putting towards the new Beaudesert Courthouse. Sorry, I should be more specific. He did not ask a single question, full stop. There was only the same old non-issues and fearmongering they have been going on with for months.

The member for Clayfield came along and had but one thing on his mind. Members on all sides of the House have noted ministerial indemnity plays an important role in ensuring that all ministers and former ministers on both sides of the House can perform their duties. In fact, we heard just yesterday how important the Deputy Leader of the Opposition thought they were back when he was in government. Of course, there are strict guidelines around when and how ministerial indemnity is granted. I must say, it is disappointing to see the LNP again playing politics with serious matters like this.

As I said in the House yesterday, 69 indemnities have been granted in the last 15 years. That is how many people have applied for and been granted indemnity. Plenty have applied to LNP former ministers, yet all we saw from the member for Clayfield was him repeatedly ignoring my very simple statement that every indemnity application I have ever approved was in line with advice from the Crown Solicitor. As the Deputy Leader of the Opposition says, it is not news.

However, the member for Currumbin—and we saw again her theatrical contribution—the deputy chair of the committee who is paid more than \$25,000 to sit on the committee, did not ask a question. She did not ask one question. She could not be bothered to ask a question—the deputy chair of the

committee. I guess she was worried about looking like the member for Mudgeeraba who, to her credit, managed to ask three questions. Never mind that none of them had anything to do with my portfolio responsibilities. I give her credit though: it is better than last year when she did not even bother to ask any questions.

Then, of course, we had the member for Whitsunday. I want to thank the member for Whitsunday for her very kind words because on four occasions she referred to me as an 'advocate for women'. Yes, I am; I am a very proud advocate for women. I think next time the member for Whitsunday needs to learn the difference between perpetrator and prevention programs. The member for Whitsunday could not even get this basic fact right. Before she starts accusing the government of inaction, I really need to thank the member for Whitsunday. My own team could not have written a better dixer. It would not hurt to bring a few more questions along next year though. The most embarrassing moment of the whole committee hearing was when the member for Whitsunday ran out of questions.

Mrs Gerber interjected.

Ms FENTIMAN: I take the interjection from the member for Currumbin, who did not even bother to ask a question. However, it was probably more embarrassing that the shadow minister ran out of questions. I also note that the member for Whitsunday failed to call out her own leader of the LNP for his recent comments indicating an LNP government would possibly wind back abortion laws in this state. In fact, that is a matter that the member for Whitsunday has failed to take a stand on at all.

I am very proud of this government's track record when it comes to supporting women and girls across Queensland, even when we have received pushback from those opposite every step of the way, because it is the Palaszczuk government that stands up for Queenslanders. We are the ones investing in our justice system unlike those opposite, who gutted the department of justice, who abolished specialist courts, who decreased funding to domestic and family violence services and then gagged them. That is their record on supporting domestic and family violence services.

Ms Bates interjected.

Ms FENTIMAN: The member for Mudgeeraba was a cabinet minister only for the first 12 months.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): Pause the clock. Member for Mudgeeraba, you have been continually interjecting. I am going to ask you to stop interjecting. You will be warned if you continue. Attorney-General, you have nine seconds remaining.

Mr WALKER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, what is your point of order? I hope you are not about to reflect on the chair.

Mr WALKER: No. The member for Mudgeeraba needs to sit in her seat if she wishes to—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, she is acting as the Manager of Opposition Business. That is not a point of order.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members. I will wait for silence.

Ms FENTIMAN: It was an embarrassing effort from the LNP. The member failed to ask questions, when the shadow minister asked questions they were not about the portfolio and then they ran out of questions. It was incredibly disappointing.