




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 22 June 2022

COMMITTEES

Estimates Hearings

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (6.28 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

1. That for the consideration of the annual appropriation bills for 2022-2023, so much of standing orders be suspended to enable:
 - (a) the portfolio committees to only hold hearings and take evidence within the timeframes provided in Table 1, circulated in my name;
 - (b) the Leader of the House after consultation with the Speaker, if necessary, to issue a memorandum changing the days and times for each hearing in Table 1; and
 - (c) where a minister administers a number of distinct portfolio matters, matters relating to each portfolio area can only be raised during the period specified for that area in Table 1.
2. That, in accordance with standing order 177(5), each portfolio committee report to the in on the annual appropriation bills by 12 August 2022.

TABLE 1—ESTIMATES HEARINGS 2022

Area of Responsibility	Ministers	Hearing Times
ECONOMIC AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE—26 July 2022		
Queensland Parliament		Speaker of the Legislative Assembly: 9am—9:45am BREAK: 9:45am—10am
Premier and Cabinet, Olympics and Paralympic Games	Premier and Minister for Olympics	Premier and Minister for the Olympics: 10am—11:45am BREAK: 11:45am—12pm
Treasury, Trade and Investment	Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment	Premier and Minister for the Olympics: 12pm—1:30pm BREAK: 1:30pm—2pm Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment: 2pm—4pm BREAK: 4pm—4:15pm Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment: 4:15pm—6pm BREAK: 6pm—6:30pm
Tourism, Innovation and Sport	Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement	Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on the Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement: 6:30pm—9pm

Area of Responsibility	Ministers	Hearing Times
STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE—27 July 2022		
<p>State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning</p> <p>Agricultural Industry Development, Fisheries and Rural Communities</p> <p>Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water</p>	<p>Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure</p> <p>Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities</p> <p>Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water</p>	<p>Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure (State Development): 9am—10am</p> <p>Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure (Infrastructure and Planning, Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure): 10am—11:15am</p> <p>BREAK: 11:15am—11:30am</p> <p>Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure (Local Government): 11:30am—12:30pm</p> <p>BREAK: 12:30pm—1:30pm</p> <p>Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities (Agricultural Industry Development and Rural Communities): 1:30pm—3pm</p> <p>BREAK: 3pm—3:15pm</p> <p>Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities (Fisheries and Forestry): 3:15pm—4:45pm</p> <p>BREAK: 4:45pm—5pm</p> <p>Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water (Water): 5pm—6:30pm</p> <p>BREAK: 6:30pm—6:45pm</p> <p>Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water (Regional Development and Manufacturing): 6:45pm—7:45pm</p>
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING COMMITTEE—28 July 2022		
<p>Education, Industrial Relations and Racing</p> <p>Employment, Small Business, Training and Skills Development</p>	<p>Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing</p> <p>Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development</p>	<p>Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing (Education and Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority): 9am—10:30am</p> <p>BREAK: 10:30am—10:45am</p> <p>Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing (Education and Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority): 10:45am—11:45am</p> <p>BREAK: 11:45am—12:30pm</p> <p>Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing (Racing): 12:30pm—1pm</p> <p>Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing (Industrial Relations): 1pm—2pm</p> <p>BREAK: 2pm—2:30pm</p> <p>Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development (Training and Skills Development): 2:30pm—4pm</p> <p>BREAK: 4pm—4:15pm</p> <p>Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development (Employment and Small Business): 4:15pm—5:15pm</p>

Area of Responsibility	Ministers	Hearing Times
HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE—29 July 2022		
<p>Health and Ambulance Services</p> <p>Environment, Great Barrier Reef, Science and Youth Affairs</p>	<p>Minister for Health and Ambulance Services</p> <p>Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs</p>	<p>Minister for Health and Ambulance Services (Department of Health, Hospital and Health Services, Health Ombudsman): 9am—10:30am</p> <p>BREAK: 10:30am—10:45am</p> <p>Minister for Health and Ambulance Services (Department of Health, Hospital and Health Services, Queensland Institute of Medical Research, Queensland Mental Health Commission, Health and Wellbeing Queensland): 10:45am—12:15pm</p> <p>BREAK: 12:15pm—12:30pm</p> <p>Minister for Health and Ambulance Services (Queensland Ambulance Services): 12:30pm—1:30pm</p> <p>BREAK: 1:30pm—2:30pm</p> <p>Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs (Environment and the Great Barrier Reef): 2:30pm—4:15pm</p> <p>BREAK: 4:15pm—4:30pm</p> <p>Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs (Science and Youth Affairs): 4:30pm—5:15pm</p>
TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE—2 August 2022		
<p>Transport and Main Roads</p> <p>Energy, Renewables, Hydrogen, Public Works and Procurement</p> <p>Resources</p>	<p>Minister for Transport and Main Roads</p> <p>Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement</p> <p>Minister for Resources</p>	<p>Minister for Transport and Main Roads: 9am—11am</p> <p>BREAK: 11am—11:15am</p> <p>Minister for Transport and Main Roads: 11:15am—1pm</p> <p>BREAK: 1pm—2pm</p> <p>Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement (Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen): 2pm—3:30pm</p> <p>BREAK: 3:30pm—3:45pm</p> <p>Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement (Public Works and Procurement): 3:45pm—5:15pm</p> <p>BREAK: 5:15pm—5:30pm</p> <p>Minister for Resources: 5:30pm—7pm</p> <p>BREAK: 7pm—7:15pm</p> <p>Minister for Resources: 7:15pm—8:15pm</p>
LEGAL AFFAIRS AND SAFETY COMMITTEE—3 August 2022		
<p>Justice and Attorney-General, Women and Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence Prevention</p> <p>Police, Corrective Services, Fire and Emergency Services</p>	<p>Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence</p> <p>Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services</p>	<p>Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence (Department of Justice and Attorney-General and Associated Statutory Bodies): 9am—10:30am</p> <p>BREAK: 10:30am—10:45am</p> <p>Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence (Department of Justice and Attorney-General): 10:45am—12:45pm</p> <p>BREAK: 12:45pm—1:30pm</p> <p>Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services (Police): 1:30pm—2:45pm</p> <p>BREAK: 2:45pm—3pm</p>

Area of Responsibility	Ministers	Hearing Times
		Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services (Corrective Services): 3pm—4pm BREAK: 4pm—4:15pm Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services (Fire and Emergency Services): 4:15pm—5:15pm
COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND SERVICES COMMITTEE—4 August 2022		
Communities, Housing, Digital Economy and the Arts Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs	Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs	Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts (Communities, Housing and Digital Economy): 9am—10:45am BREAK: 10:45am—11am Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts (Arts): 11am—11:45am BREAK: 11:45am—12:30pm Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships (Seniors and Disability Services): 12:30pm—1:45pm BREAK: 1:45pm—2pm Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Family Responsibilities Commission): 2pm—3:15pm BREAK: 3:15pm—3:30pm Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs (Children and Youth Justice): 3:30pm—5:15pm BREAK: 5:15pm—5:30pm Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs (Multicultural Affairs): 5:30pm—6:15pm

Here we are again. Another year has flown by. Many weeks of hard work has been undertaken to craft and design a budget to deliver positive outcomes for all Queenslanders. On Tuesday afternoon the Treasurer and Minister for Trade stood in this chamber and delivered the Palaszczuk Labor government's budget—a budget which will deliver for all Queenslanders and will see a record health budget investing in the health care Queenslanders need. After this week's sitting, the Queensland parliament is about to embark on the highlight event of the democratic calendar—budget estimates.

As members should know, the estimates process aids the Queensland parliament in its scrutiny of the government's proposed expenditure. It is an opportunity for ministers and officials to front their relevant portfolio committee and answer questions about the proposed expenditure. I am advised that since 1994 committees of the Queensland parliament have undertaken the estimates process by examining and reporting on the proposed expenditures contained in the Appropriation Bill and the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill. At each hearing the chairperson of the committee puts the question 'That the proposed expenditure be agreed to', and questions then flow from there.

Members may be wondering why I am providing an overview of how estimates should run. I do so because it is apparent that many in this chamber have forgotten or do not know what the estimates hearings are for. They are an opportunity to ask questions relating to the expenditure of public funds, but what we have seen from those opposite in recent years are stunts, theatrics and farce. We have seen members scream and yell over other members, including the chairperson of the committee—who I might add, is basically the speaker of the committee and should be treated with the same respect afforded to the Speaker or any member who occupies the Speaker's chair of the Legislative Assembly. We have seen members throw their hands around, argue with witnesses and even storm out in a huff. Those opposite have stamped their feet and want more time for the estimates hearings, but all they really need to do is get their own house in order. The estimates process is about asking questions about

the expenditure of public funds: it is not to grandstand, it is not there for 'gotcha' questions and it is not there to carry on in such a manner just to get your face on the nightly news, a social media clip or TikTok. Only time will tell what will occur this year.

The motion before the House sets out the dates of each hearing. Members will see that it is set down for a two-week period, with each of the portfolio committees meeting each day. They are not all rammed through in a matter of days like those opposite did. We all know the failed experiment of the Newman LNP government, led by the then manager of government business, the member for Mermaid Beach. Those opposite want to talk about openness and transparency, but when they had the largest majority Queensland has seen they constrained estimates over a matter of a few days to restrict the handful of opposition members and non-government members'—and the media's—ability to attend each portfolio committee.

This was an utterly shameful approach to the estimates hearings, but there were many shameful things the Newman LNP government did, such as when the then treasurer and current member for Clayfield came in during the debate of the appropriation bills and started his reply speech, thus denying members of the opposition—remembering there were seven, then eight and then nine—the right to address the appropriation bills as he closed down the debate. That is the LNP's legacy to openness and transparency. The motion before the House also establishes the times for each of the minister's portfolio sections within each day. This was the same as last year and allocated adequate time for each minister to appear and be asked questions.

After each estimates an analysis is undertaken. I have been advised that, of the total time questions were asked during last year's hearing, approximately 61 per cent of the time was utilised by non-government members and approximately 39 per cent of the time was utilised by government members. I am further advised that, of the total questions asked, approximately 71 per cent were asked by non-government members and approximately 29 per cent were asked by government members. The statistics show that the system is working. The statistics show that there is more than 50 per cent of the time being utilised by non-government members. In fact, around 60 per cent of the time was utilised by non-government members asking members of the executive government questions about their portfolio responsibilities.

I wish to touch on schedule 7 of the standing rules and orders of the Legislative Assembly. As members would know, schedule 7 lists entities to which direct questioning of chief executives can occur during the estimates process. This schedule is reviewed on a yearly basis by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet against set criteria which I have been advised have not changed for some time. I am advised that, upon their review of the current entities in existence in Queensland, there does not need to be a change to schedule 7 this year. This means that the chief executives of the entities which are currently listed in schedule 7 will be in attendance at the estimates hearings and can be asked questions about the proposed expenditure directly. As such, as Leader of the House I will not be moving any amendment to schedule 7 for this year's hearing.

It should also be noted that heads of departments, directors-general and the Under Treasurer will be in attendance at the hearings and can be asked questions directly in addition to the minister. Other witnesses may be called at the discretion of the minister, directors-general, Under Treasurer or chief executive if they deem it appropriate. This is the same process which has occurred for many, many years, including under the Newman LNP government.

The motion also allows for the Leader of the House, after consultation with the Speaker, to issue a memorandum changing the days and times for each hearing if necessary. This is a contingency plan only if something occurs such as a COVID-19, flu outbreak or other natural disaster, for example, which would prohibit the hearing going ahead. This was utilised last year due to the unfolding COVID-19 situation in Queensland—in particular, in South-East Queensland—which limited the ability of people to travel. I state this because last year those opposite claimed that the government or I could potentially abuse this power granted by the parliament by just changing the days of the estimates hearings for political convenience. I advised the House last year that this contingency provision would only be used in limited circumstances such as COVID-19 and it would only be used in limited circumstances this year, if at all. The history of last year supports this argument.

Estimates is a time for departments to prepare briefing materials for their ministers. We all know that this is an extensive process and I thank all departmental officers in advance—in particular, those in the Department of Health—for their support in preparing for this important democratic process. I also thank Parliamentary Services in advance for their support in ensuring a smooth and seamless estimates process. I thank all of our hardworking and experienced chairs of committees—the member for Logan, the member for Bancroft, the member for Redlands, the member for Thuringowa, the member for

Kurwongbah, the member for Toohey and the member for Mansfield—for the work they do in preparing and undertaking estimates, and indeed all members of committees. They are long, but important, days in our democratic calendar. With those words, I commend the motion to the House.