



Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 16 August 2022


APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation (Parliament) Bill

Economics and Governance Committee, Report

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (11.31 am): I rise to make a contribution to the Economics and Governance Committee's report entitled *2022-23 Budget estimates: Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2022*. At the outset I want to acknowledge and thank the member for Logan, the chair of the Economics and Governance Committee, on another year of fine chairing of the estimates hearing for the Speaker, the Premier, the Treasurer and Minister Hinchliffe. He, like all the chairs, does a tremendous job chairing the committee, not only during the two-week estimates process but throughout the year, ensuring that the people of Queensland and key stakeholders are able to have their say on important legislation and matters which impact them and the wider community. I acknowledge all of the committee members of all of the committees for the work they do. I echo the comments made by the member for Glass House in acknowledging the work of the parliament itself in supporting the elected members in the work they do to represent their communities and the people of Queensland.

The report before the House deals with the parliament appropriations. I note the committee's recommendation that the proposed expenditure be agreed to without amendment. The funding provided to the parliament will ensure that its important independent apolitical work will continue on behalf of the people of Queensland. I note the hearing discussions that were had in relation to the committees and the processes of parliament. I note also the comments made today by the member for Glass House on behalf of the opposition, saying that it is time to review the estimates processes. While discussions are important, they should be held in the context of the facts, and I want to take a moment to put the facts on the record.

In relation to this year's estimates, I have been advised of the following, which I note are approximates. There were approximately 1,233 questions asked during the seven days of hearings. Of the 1,233 questions, I am advised that approximately 298 questions were asked by government members of the parliament and approximately 935 questions were asked by non-government members. This means that non-government members asked over 630 more questions than members of the government. I am further advised that there were around 2,907 minutes of questions throughout the seven days. Approximately 39 per cent of the time utilised for questions was used by government members and approximately 61 per cent of the time utilised for questions was used by non-government

members. Let me say that again for the benefit of those opposite: approximately 61 per cent of the time for non-government members and 39 per cent of the time for government members. As Cher said, let us 'turn back time'—and do not worry: I am not going to break out in song.

Government members interjected.

Mrs D'ATH: I know. You are disappointed, aren't you? You would be a lot more disappointed if I sang!

During the 2013 estimates hearings and those dark days of the Newman government, I am advised that approximately 44 per cent of the time was utilised by government members and approximately 56 per cent by non-government members to ask questions. During 2014, approximately 51 per cent was utilised by government members and 49 per cent by non-government members to ask questions. As members will see, this year there was more time utilised by non-government members, which is a positive thing. It means more time for non-government members to ask questions of the executive about the appropriation bills which deliver for all Queenslanders.

We all know that the estimates process does not just happen. It occurs with the support of many people—from departments, advisers and, most importantly, the parliamentary staff who set up the chamber, facilitate the day and record the events of the day in *Hansard* for future generations. On behalf of the Palaszczuk government, we thank all parliamentary staff for their work in supporting the people's house to function.