



Speech By
Andrew Powell

MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE

Record of Proceedings, 23 August 2023


APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation Bill

Health and Environment Committee, Report

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (11.25 am): I am glad I am not on that list! I was saying yesterday in relation to the health component of the estimates committee hearing that increasingly for the Palaszczuk Labor government it is all about the announcement and not about the deliverables. We also saw that in relation to the environment portfolio. Queenslanders would have heard a lot about the massive Pioneer-Burdekin Pumped Hydro project. What we are increasingly seeing is that it is a hoax—it is the 'hydro hoax'. We have ministers on the government benches, like the Treasurer and the energy minister, claiming that this is a done deal, that it is going ahead and that it is going to be the linchpin of our energy needs and requirements for many years into the future. Anyone who knows the area knows that it comes with a lot of environmental concerns.

What we determined from the estimates hearing with the Minister for the Environment is that, to date, the environment department has barely been involved in the process of selecting that site. Certainly, if environmental issues arise this site will not be able to proceed. I was thinking, 'What does this remind me of?' It reminded me of Peter Beattie jumping in a helicopter, flying over the Gympie region and saying, 'We're going to put a dam there, at Traveston.' It was a done deal. He went to the people of Queensland and said, 'I've got it all sorted. We're going to put a dam there.' Little did they know, there were significant environmental concerns with putting a dam there on the Mary River. I suspect that we will have exactly the same thing occur on the Pioneer-Burdekin Pumped Hydro project. Members of the government benches wave around glossy little brochures, but when push comes to shove it will not be able to be delivered and that will leave a gaping hole in terms of meeting our energy requirements into the future.