



Speech By
Bryson Head

MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

Record of Proceedings, 23 August 2023


APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation Bill

Transport and Resources Committee, Report

 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (12.32 pm): Estimates are meant to be a process of transparency and accountability. Any government that is anything other than dodgy would allow the opposition significant opportunities to ask questions. I was seriously disappointed at the lack of opportunity the opposition was given to ask questions on behalf of Queensland because of the foul rules imposed and time allowed in the estimates process. In a question during estimates I said—

The Auditor-General, the mining and energy union, and the QCA have all stated that a lack of maintenance has resulted in unplanned outages at generators. In turn, this instability has led to higher electricity prices for Queenslanders.

Minister de Brenni said—

I have not seen those specific statements made by those entities.

Has the minister been living under a rock? If the minister is incapable of keeping up to date with current affairs I suggest he ask his staff to do a quick google search and find them. Alternatively, I would be more than happy to show him where to find this information. During this debate Minister Stewart said that he answered all of the questions he was asked. I note that at the beginning of the hearing the minister commented that in his folder in front of him he had an answer for every possible question we could throw at him. I am sure the department and ministerial staff spent weeks working hard to prepare that briefing pack. As we ran out of time, I formally requested that the minister table all of the answers his staff and department spent weeks preparing. If the minister loves accountability and transparency, of course he would do so without hesitation. Callide is a large electorate and the Transport and Resources Committee directly relates to so many industries within it. We have a tired and dodgy government in the grips of chaos and crisis.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Member for Callide, I would ask you to withdraw that unparliamentary language and refrain from using it again in the future.

Mr HEAD: I withdraw. They continue to claim they love transparency and accountability, so if ministers love accountability I have some questions that relate not only to this year's budget but this committee which I implore them to answer. How much was spent on carting gravel at the John Peterson Bridge upgrade? I note that thanks to this government's failing laws—which we have talked about during

this debate—we have to cart gravel hundreds of kilometres instead of sourcing it locally. This adds huge costs to projects and degrades roads in the process, which means they have to go back and fix the roads they had to cart gravel across. What plans does the minister have to upgrade the last 11 kilometres of single-lane bitumen on the Mundubbera Durong Road to improve heavy vehicle access and road safety in the process? How has the government managed to spend \$26.6 million on upgrading less than five kilometres of the Monto-Mount Perry Road, and when will the minister deliver on his mid 2020 commitment to finish sealing this road? Why has the minister shut down a fantastic road safety initiative by closing the Driver Reviver program? How far behind on maintenance is the department on the Leichhardt Highway? Just recently when I was driving through Taroom—

Mr Smith interjected.

Mr HEAD: I will take that interjection. I would have loved to ask that question in estimates if we were given more time to ask questions. If the government wants to give us more time to ask questions, member for Bundaberg, I will happily sit there and ask questions until I run out. We ran out of time because of the government's rules around the estimates process.

The Leichhardt Highway is a major highway that a lot of heavy vehicles use to support the mining industry. Recently when I was driving through town I saw a car on the side of the road. There was a fellow sitting in it and he had a cardboard sign hanging out the window. It had 'Rockhampton or Emerald?' written on it. I pulled up to talk to him. As I approached the car I realised very quickly what his problem was. He was sitting in his car with two flat tyres because coming up the Leichhardt Highway just out of Taroom he hit a large pothole. As it was a weekend he could not source any tyres locally. I table photos of his tyres and car for the record. These photos demonstrate what damage the lack of road maintenance in rural Queensland does to people. Just imagine the accident it could have caused if those tyres had fallen off in the process.

Tabled paper: Photograph depicting damage to tyres [1177](#).

With regard to energy, the cost-of-living crisis is directly related to the Callide Power Station not being maintained. We know that increases power prices for Queenslanders. This government is failing. We have 'budget blowout' Bailey, whom we could not even scrutinise properly—

(Time expired)