




Speech By
Christopher Whiting

MEMBER FOR BANCROFT

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COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY: REPORT, MOTION TO TAKE NOTE

Resumed from 1 December 2022 (see p. 3881)

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (3.02 pm), continuing: I stand to continue speaking to the House as I was before I was interrupted by Christmas, new year and everything else. Going back to what I was saying on 1 December—

Mr Power: We all remember!

Mr WHITING: I know you all remember, but I will just repeat it. I was saying that the LNP should be wary of calling for a review of the system of estimates because its members may end up having to do more work as part of it. They may be required to ask better questions, which is one of the things I did talk about.

Ms Boyd interjected.

Mr WHITING: They could introduce a bill, but they could also ask better questions with no allegations, imputations or hypotheticals. They may need to ask more questions if we review the system—I do suspect that they often run out of questions—or might need to develop a deep well of questions for all of the different ways that the inquiry could go. I think members opposite should be prepared to go into depths along some of the different lines of questions, think on their feet and practice asking more of those questions. It might be that we need to see more questions by committee members. That would be fabulous. I do feel sorry for our LNP members who come into the committees and sit there all day and have someone else come in over the top of them and ask the questions instead of them. I do feel sorry for those opposite, especially the member for Burleigh. I look forward to hearing more questions from him.

I can see though what we may have done wrong in the estimates last year. I think we gave members of the LNP too much help. I think we gave them too much time. I think we gave them heaps of time—perhaps too much. We took away time from government members to allow LNP members to ask questions. I even, to my great shame, gave them some help with their questions. I was interpreting what they were trying to say and recasting that into conforming questions, so I do apologise for that. I have to say that I did not protect ministers. If anything, I needed to protect LNP committee members from ministers themselves. They are some of the things that I did do wrong.

As I said briefly last year, there are some things that we will be doing differently this year which will only add to the success of estimates. I look forward to this year. I will give a preview of what we are going to do. As I said, I am not going to accept the term 'protection racket' for reasons I outlined last year. I have to say to members of the LNP that I will not be helping them with questions this year. I will give them one chance or I might just rule them out of order. I will give them a hint though: they may need to rehearse some of this, so that is just a quick tip for them. One thing I will do is I will not protect

them from ministers. I might allow the ministers to go full rein on what they want to say when faced with questions. One thing that we will be doing is we want to make more time for all members of our committee—the hardworking members of our committee who turn up all of the time. I think they should be getting more questions as part of this. I commend the report to the House.