




Speech By
David Crisafulli

MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

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

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (3.06 pm): In a unicameral parliament, the committee system and the estimates process are more valuable than anywhere else and at the moment in Queensland the estimates process is not working. It is broken. Anyone who values democracy will look at it and see it for what it is. It is essential and we have now seen the estimates process three times in this parliament and it has not improved. It has become predictable and sterile and it is a sham process.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: It is rare that I would say this, but I welcome the presence of the member for Logan at the moment because the member for Logan is the greatest exponent of running down the clock I have seen. He makes a tired footballer look like an amateur, this guy, the way that he runs down the clock. Every time someone asks a question, he rephrases the question and says, 'Who's the question to?' or, 'I've got to call it.' Just let the process unfold. I understand the juvenile name-calling, but I want to raise an important point: across both sides of politics when you watch the estimates process in Canberra it works far better than this one and it enables an interaction where the person does not have to be called each and every time. It enables ministers to be able to turn up, face the music and have to be across their brief without having people run a protection racket, and that is what democracy looks like.

I want to raise three things and they are three things that we commit to do in government because we are serious about this process working. The first is that the process should be chaired by the Speaker or the deputy speaker or someone other than a member of the government. That is fair and reasonable and that will enable time for people to be able to probe and test and make sure that ministers are across their brief. The second is that we will increase the time to examine the expenditure to allow a robust analysis to allow people to be able to ask questions across the portfolio when and where they like.

The third one, and one that I think Queenslanders will embrace, is limiting the mind-numbingly repetitive Dorothy Dixers. I have seen some interesting Dorothy Dixers, but the one that took the cake this time was the member for Hervey Bay who asked a Dorothy Dixer that actually had not even been properly prepared for the subject. You know the process is so metronomic and so repetitive when a member is given a question that even they do not know what it is about. That is absurd. If a minister is across his or her brief they would welcome the opportunity to show it. There have been some very good ministers from both sides of politics who have fronted up and just said, 'Over to you. We want to see some questions.' I ask the backbench, those sitting there who will not be promoted in this term, would you not want to ask some questions about your electorate? Would you not want to ask something that shows you have a level of intellectual rigour and that you stand up for your community? The process is broken. We intend to fix it.