



Speech By
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MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

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APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation Bill

Economics and Governance Committee, Report

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.50 am): The estimates process in this state is broken and the LNP intends to strengthen it. You only had to look at the goings-on of this committee to work out just how broken it is. The member for Logan has just explained what in the member for Glass House's mind is a stalling tactic. I will unpack it for the member for Logan. He does not need to ask the person who is asking the same witness a series of questions to whom the question is directed each time. The member might think it is a simple waste of time, but it is designed to filibuster, to break in and to stop the flow of questioning.

When I look at other jurisdictions, including the parliament in Canberra, across both sides of politics, I see the estimates process and I see it working. I see an opportunity for ministers to be scrutinised. I see an opportunity for genuine cross-examination. I see an opportunity for the opposition to ask a series of questions that can bring the truth to bear. Then I look at Queensland and I see the protection racket for ministers who are not across their brief. I see the protection racket from a government that does not believe in integrity.

How will we reform this process? It starts by ensuring that the chair conducts themselves in an impartial way and that the chair is independent. It has to change; it cannot continue the way it is. There should not be such a large portion of time dedicated to Dorothy Dixier questions that do nothing—neither for the government members asking them nor for the minister trying to pat themselves on the back in answering—and that nobody, quite frankly, is listening to. There is a better way. That better way is to make sure there is genuine scrutiny and genuine opportunity for members to ask questions of interest to their electorate and, indeed, to the state of Queensland. Ministers should provide answers that are relevant. There are so many examples throughout this process—and, indeed, the hearings we are debating right now—of where that did not occur. The constant points of order and the constant breaks in the flow of questions must change—and it will change.

The Leader of the House raised a point about Professor Coaldrake not talking about the estimates process, but he did raise a few points about integrity and about public servants being in fear. He raised a few things about public servants not being able to do their job without pressure coming from government. Didn't we see that time and time again, particularly when it comes to the transport minister? He also made some comments about a clearing house. To see the government walk away from a

commitment to deliver a clearing house shows everything we need to know about a government in its third term that has given up on integrity. The way the estimates process in this state is run shows that government members would rather run a protection racket than let the sunshine in to the parliament.

What did we learn about the service delivery failures in this state? We learned about the cost blowouts on the Gabba and the fact that a business case was never done for either the \$1 billion or the \$2.7 billion project. We heard about the watering down of the youth crime laws. We spoke about the failure to deliver affordable, reliable and sustainable energy and about the lack of new homes built by the Housing Investment Fund. We found out that, two years on, just five per cent of health and hospital announcements have been delivered. This is a government that is all about the announcement and never about the delivery.

Most of all, we found out about a \$2.4 billion cover-up. Despite repeated questioning, the Premier refused to give a straight answer. We now know why: it was the Premier who signed off on the deal many weeks before, in the Cabinet Budget Review Committee. What should be of most concern to the government is not just its inability to manage things on time and on budget or that it is bereft of any form of integrity and will cover things up; it is that its own Cabinet Budget Review Committee is now leaking against itself. How have we reached the point where a group of only five cannot be trusted not to rat on each other?

(Time expired)