



Speech By
James Martin

MEMBER FOR STRETTON

Record of Proceedings, 23 August 2023


APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation Bill

Transport and Resources Committee, Report

 **Mr MARTIN** (Stretton—ALP) (12.27 pm): I rise to support the Transport and Resources Committee estimates report. I acknowledge the members of the committee and especially the chair, the member for Kurwongbah. The chair is certainly firm but also fair. I would also like to thank the secretariat, Hansard, the ministers and all of the public servants who attended. It was great to hear from Transport. We heard about record investment and building trains in Maryborough. From Energy we heard about bill discounts and our Energy and Jobs Plan. From Resources we heard about some of the fantastic work this government is doing, especially in relation to critical minerals and the confidence and interest that we have seen from around the world in that area.

It was great to hear that Queensland has seen an eighth record infrastructure commitment from this government in the \$89 billion Big Build, which will support more than 58,000 jobs and ensure that Queensland is ready to host the Olympic Games in 2032. We know how important it is to have suitable infrastructure and, importantly, reliable public transport for our growing state. With 1,700 people moving to Queensland every week, it is vital that we see a strong commitment to building infrastructure and improving public transport, not funding cuts or sacking staff or selling off assets.

There is no doubt that cost pressures from high inflation are reaching all corners of the economy including infrastructure and service delivery. We have seen extraordinary increases in construction costs in particular. Despite this, the Palaszczuk government has been focused on delivering cost-of-living relief to Queensland businesses, individuals and households all while getting the job done.

There are several large road and highway upgrades that are being undertaken across the state. Members of my electorate are very pleased to see completion of the works of the \$30 million upgrade to the Beaudesert Road and Illaweenah Street intersection. This project has already helped reduce congestion, getting people to work and, importantly, the mums and dads of Stretton State College are very happy. It has improved the drop-offs to Stretton State College, especially in the mornings. Improvements to this intersection include increasing it to six lanes, signalised left turns and improving pedestrian crossings. Cycle access is much safer now too.

Rail is another vital piece of our transport network, and I am proud of the local manufacturers in my electorate who are contributing to projects such as Cross River Rail. I would like to give a shout-out to the team from Burndy Cable Support Systems at Acacia Ridge. They are busy manufacturing and supplying the brackets that the cables which go through the tunnels hang on. Demand is high right now at Burndy for skilled employees. They are always looking for welders. The pay for welders right now is really good. The reason I say this is because it is evidence that the investment we are putting into public transport and Cross River Rail is flowing through the economy into local businesses and well-paid jobs in my electorate. In addition, I am looking forward to the removal of the Kuraby level crossing, the upgrade to Kuraby station and the duplication of rail tracks from Logan to Beaudesert. Many people in my community travel along Beenleigh Road. They are very excited about the removal of that level crossing and the upgrades to train stations. Trinder Park is one of the train stations that will be upgraded. Even though it is just outside of my electorate it will be a big benefit to students from the Islamic College of Brisbane. I would like to acknowledge the CEO of ICB, Ali Kadri, for his advocacy for his students and always ensuring they get a first-class education.

It is fantastic to be part of a government that is bringing train manufacturing back to Queensland. We will provide advanced manufacturing jobs for hundreds of Queenslanders over the next 35 years by building 65 new trains at a purpose-built facility, having repaired the majority of the 65 disability noncompliant trains that were ordered from overseas by the Newman government.

In relation to energy, this year's budget included the most significant electricity bill support package announced anywhere in Australia, nearly doubling the size of the federally agreed support package. It means that the average Queensland household will receive a minimum of \$550 off their electricity bill, with seniors to receive a \$1,072 discount. There is also a \$650 discount for Queensland businesses. I commend the report to the House.