



Speech By  
**Jarrod Bleijie**

**MEMBER FOR KAWANA**

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Record of Proceedings, 22 August 2023


## **APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL**

### **APPROPRIATION BILL**

#### **Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)**

#### **Appropriation Bill**

#### **State Development and Regional Industries Committee, Report**

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.56 pm): Just before the lunchbreak the Deputy Premier stood up in this House and could not bring himself to speak for five minutes on the government's program or agenda or the future for the state of Queensland. He barely rated a three-minute mention on his budget estimates. That is all he did—three minutes. He could have kept going, but he could only speak on the government's agenda for three minutes. Why? Because they have no agenda.

If we look at the budget estimates hearings, it is another year and another budget estimates hearings with Labor committee members not allowing freedom of expression and freedom of debate and chairs of various committees trying to rephrase questions and asking questions of the opposition—sorry, the opposition draft the questions. What we see is just a process whereby the protection racket for various incompetent ministers continues. It was the case with the estimates hearing of the State Development and Regional Industries Committee.

In terms of most of the infrastructure questions we asked the Deputy Premier, he said, 'It is not my responsibility. It is another portfolio responsibility. You will have to ask the Premier. You will have to ask DPC. You will have to ask TMR. You will have to ask Minister Bailey about those sorts of things.' There were plenty of questions for Minister Bailey, I can tell members that. The infrastructure minister did not want to talk about infrastructure during the estimates process. We started the estimates process with the State Development and Regional Industries Committee talking about Minister Mark Bailey and the cover-up of the \$9.5 billion train shame scandal.

**Mr BAILEY:** I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. The member knows what the standing orders are. This is not about the committee related to my portfolio. It is about the infrastructure committee and he is blatantly and flagrantly ignoring the standing orders and he should be brought to order.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Walker): I will take some advice. Member for Kawana, I will give you some scope because it is consideration of the estimates report, but you need to be relevant and be mindful of the language you are using.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** When we talked about infrastructure, the Deputy Premier kept saying, 'You'll have to ask Minister Mark Bailey.' The Deputy Premier was the one talking about Minister Mark Bailey in the estimates process. He was deflecting to Minister Bailey. He also sits on the CBRC, which oversaw the \$2.4 billion train manufacturing blowout which was subject to lots of debate at our State Development and Regional Industries Committee meeting.

We then talked about more blowouts and that, of course, was the Gabba. Interestingly, the Senate, as we speak, is holding an inquiry down the road where the Australian Olympic Committee CEO has said that the Gabba redevelopment was essentially for the AFL and cricket before the Olympics were announced. Can anyone remember the Palaszczuk government announcing that the Gabba was being knocked down for AFL or cricket before the Olympics was announced? I cannot. I did a quick search after that testimony was given this morning. The Gabba went from a billion dollars to \$2.7 billion. I asked the Deputy Premier and Mike Kaiser, former Labor minister now director-general of the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning—

**Mr Nicholls:** He was a member only. He didn't make it to minister.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Sorry, a former Labor member.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Walker): Member for Kawana, can we stick to their correct title, which is what their current position was at the estimates?

**Mr BLEIJIE:** He is a director-general, a former Labor member of parliament.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** We have to be mindful that they are staff. We are here to talk about estimates.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** He is a director-general.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** That is right, but you are going on about history. Can we stick to the estimates?

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Yes, I will. Thank you, Deputy Speaker. The director-general, who is a self-confessed vote rorter—which was from estimates last year as well—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Kawana, can you resume your seat. I will get some advice on that language. Member for Kawana, just be mindful. We are going to stick to estimates and the content of estimates. It would be great if we could stay focused.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I asked the director-general about the Gabba redevelopment, which was originally announced by the government at \$1 billion. I asked the director-general if he could provide the business case. He said he did not think there was a business case. He did not know much about it because it was not his department. Now he has it in his department. I said, 'Now you have a \$2.7 billion Gabba redevelopment. Could you now provide the business case you undertook to ascertain the \$2.7 billion?' The director-general responded, 'We haven't done a business case on that.' Interestingly, they advised how they came up with the billion dollar figure for the original Gabba redevelopment. It was because they needed an announcement for a media conference. That is all it was. Literally the Premier picked a billion dollars out of thin air for a media conference. That goes hand in hand with the red carpet, the glitz and glamour. It is all about the announcements; it is never about the deliverables. It is never about actually delivering infrastructure. So a billion dollars is now \$2.7 billion and there is absolutely no transparency about it.

The Deloitte report—Deloitte got nearly \$800,000 for an 18-page report of which the director-general said, 'That wasn't my portfolio. It is now with us but whatever.' The question is this: did Rachel Nolan, a former Labor minister, have anything to do with the commissioning, the authoring or input into that Deloitte report because she is now employed by Deloitte as a special envoy adviser for the Olympics? Did Rachel Nolan, a former Labor minister, have anything to do with the report that recommended the Labor government take all the infrastructure planning in-house? If she did, then it was not independent and the government have done exactly what they set out to do—that is, no transparency, no openness and no accountability around the decision-making.

*(Time expired)*