



Speech By  
**Jim Madden**

**MEMBER FOR IPSWICH WEST**

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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 MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (3.24 pm): I rise to contribute to the estimates debate for 2023. The estimates process aids the parliament in its scrutiny of the government's proposed expenditure. Since 1994, committees of the parliament have undertaken the estimates process by examining and reporting on the proposed expenditures contained in the Appropriation Bill and the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill. From 1 August 2023 to 10 August 2023, each of the seven portfolio committees held a public hearing at which the Premier, ministers and certain senior public servants and officers were questioned regarding the proposed expenditures for their relevant portfolio areas. I proudly serve on the state parliament's State Development and Regional Industries Committee which deals with the portfolios of state development, manufacturing, local government, agriculture and water, with the respective ministers being Steven Miles, Mark Furner and Glenn Butcher. On 2 August, these ministers presented themselves to the committee to be examined.

I was pleased that the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development was able to provide an update as to the booming Queensland economy. We have the opportunity in Queensland to support the creation of the battery industry and its associated supply chains. The Deputy Premier said that the goal of the Palaszczuk government is to be a battery industry leader as global demand for new energy storage facilities surge. One of Queensland's huge natural advantages is our globally significant critical mineral reserves. We are fortunate to have plentiful vanadium, cobalt, copper and rare earth elements. These elements are essential to the development of clean energy technologies like solar panels, battery storage and electric vehicles.

With Minister Furner, the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries, I was pleased to ask him to outline how the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries is collaborating in Queensland with the fishing industry and the community to ensure they have their voices heard. Minister Furner advised that the Palaszczuk government continues to listen to Queenslanders through the implementation of the Sustainable Fisheries Strategy 2017-2027, an election commitment which has seen the establishment of fisheries working groups. He advised that there are now 16 fisheries working groups in place across the state, as well as the Sustainable Fisheries Expert Panel, providing operational advice directly to government on the management of our wonderful fishery resources in Queensland. He said that the Palaszczuk government is committed to managing our fisheries resources

in a sustainable and responsible manner, recognising the interests of all Queenslanders. An important part of fisheries management is stakeholder engagement through these working groups. Recently in June 2023, the minister appointed 10 members to the newly formed Cape York Special Fisheries Working Group. This working group will work closely with key stakeholders in identifying new economic pathways for First Nations communities in Cape York through charter fisheries and tourism opportunities.

Minister Butcher, the Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water, was asked a question by the member for Nanango as to the future of the Cormorant Bay Cafe at Wivenhoe Dam. Prior to its closure in 2019, the Cormorant Bay Cafe was a major tourist attraction at Wivenhoe Dam, and I was a regular customer of that excellent cafe. The member for Nanango directed her question to Neil Brennan, the CEO of SEQwater, who advised—

Seqwater is supportive of Somerset council's investigations into the future use of the Cormorant Bay Cafe building. Seqwater has provided consent and financial support for council to undertake an engineering review of the condition of the existing building to inform future commercial use. Seqwater is prepared to undertake the required structural remediation works to the building, provided council agrees to enter a lease of the building, undertake the fit-out, secure a tenant and reopen the building for commercial use. We look forward to continuing to work closely with the council and keeping the community informed. The previous cafe lease expired in March 2019 and the tenant did not take up the offer for a new lease.

I look forward to the reopening of the Cormorant Bay Cafe at Wivenhoe Dam.