



Speech By
Linus Power

MEMBER FOR LOGAN

Record of Proceedings, 22 August 2023


APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation (Parliament) Bill

Economics and Governance Committee, Report

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (11.21 am): I rise as the chair of the Economics and Governance Committee to speak about the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill. Members in South-East Queensland—and you know this more than most, Mr Deputy Speaker Walker—can easily take for granted that our students and our residents can so easily visit this great institution of parliament. Indeed, at the last sitting I spoke with students from northern New South Wales who visited. We must recognise that in this place—and this is something that especially those on this side very much know—we represent all of Queensland. We represent Queensland from Bamaga to Boonah and every part in-between, and we are proud of that. However, Cairns residents and school students cannot just simply drop into their parliament as they would like. We know that it would be easier for those students from northern New South Wales to make a visit to the parliament of Victoria or New South Wales than for Cairns students perhaps to visit the parliament. That is the real difference between those smaller states down south and ours.

That is why I was really proud to note that in this appropriations we had made an investment in the democracy of our state in terms of the funding for the Cairns sitting of parliament. That reinforces—and this side needs no reminder—that we work for all of Queensland. It was a shame then that it was this very investment that was the major focus of attacks by the LNP. I was disappointed by that. It also seemed to indicate that one of the many cuts that the LNP intends to put forward if it was ever elected would be cutting the sitting of parliament. That was clearly implied by the tenor of their questions.

We also have the great responsibility in this House to the physical and historical yet living embodiment of democracy—this place. The Economics and Governance Committee takes seriously this responsibility and we very seriously held the hearing with the Acting Speaker, the Clerk and the many officers of the parliament. We recognise that many of the staff had to do extra preparation knowing that they could have had that detailed examination. The consideration of their budgets and the nature of their budgets is an important part of that democratic process. I also want to thank the staff who do so much work behind the scenes, especially the Economics and Governance Committee secretariat.

Mr Stevens: Deputy chair?

Mr POWER: And the deputy chair, the member for Mermaid Beach. I recognise his contribution. I do not always agree with it, but I certainly recognise it. We recognise those staff and know that their very existence and the work that they do is appropriated through this funding, as is the maintenance of this building. I endorse the report that the committee has released to the parliament and support the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill.