



Speech By
Hon. Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 23 August 2023


APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation Bill

Legal Affairs and Safety Committee, Report

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (12.48 pm): I want to firstly take the opportunity to thank the committee for its examination of my portfolio areas during this year's budget estimates. I acknowledge their report into the budget estimates of my portfolio areas. I would like to acknowledge the efforts of everyone involved in the process: committee members, members of parliament who attended, departmental staff, Hansard staff, committee staff and those in my ministerial team. I would particularly like to acknowledge Jacob in my team for his hard work, as well as all the relevant policy advisers and media advisers in my team for their efforts.

There is an issue that I must address. It relates to the whinging and whining of those opposite when it comes to the estimates process. Those opposite continually complain about the estimates process, specifically that they do not get enough time to thoroughly interrogate the budget details of the portfolios for which I am responsible. Certainly, the numbers are very clear when it comes to this. Those opposite had approximately twice as much time allocated for their questions compared to government questions, and they were able to ask roughly three times the number of questions compared to government members. Those members would have to be careful what they wish for because, judging by the diminishing quality of the questions of those opposite, I would suggest that they probably should spend more time preparing so that they can justify the amount of time that they actually get.

I was particularly disappointed that those opposite who like to pump it all up and talk about the important issues do not then interrogate those messages and those topics within estimates when there is an opportunity to ask the Police Commissioner about the serious matters that the community are raising and when there are opportunities to ask me about those serious matters. Those opposite are all talk and no substance. They do not raise the issue. They do not raise—

An opposition member: Can't get a straight answer.

Mr RYAN: You have to ask the question first to get an answer. Those opposite just do not venture into those areas of trying to match their bravado, trying to match their hubris with actual substance in the estimates process. If they had asked questions around the record police budget, they would have received very good answers. The record budget for the Queensland Police Service of over \$3 billion is

investing in more infrastructure, more vehicles, more equipment and, of course, recruiting more police personnel. It is making the investment that we detailed yesterday around investing in new and improved facilities for PCYCs; investments in Queensland Corrective Services—another record budget—investing in facilities, investing in staff, ensuring that staff are well trained and well supported in the work that they do; and investing in Queensland Fire and Emergency Services through our history-making reform work, a massive boost to the front line, the restructure of Queensland Fire and Emergency Services to ensure that it is well placed for the future.

The feedback from stakeholders around the investment that this government has made in the budget process this year is significant and it is welcomed—investing in the Rural Fire Service for more Rural Fire Service appliances and equipment for the volunteers; investing in marine rescue services, creating a new government agency essentially with Marine Rescue Queensland launching next year and the investment in vessels and support for those hardworking volunteers on the water; and investing in the State Emergency Service with new equipment and also more staff to support the front line.

These are significant investments, and investments that are worth scrutinising, but once again the opposition failed to scrutinise those significant investments. Once again they chose not to match their bravado and hubris with actual substance.

There is commentary in the report, including the statement of reservation, around some data relating to serious assaults on staff by prisoners. It is quite interesting because the data is there in the SDS, the commissioner specifically answered it, and I would say that the statement made by those opposite in the statement of reservation is contrary to the facts and contrary to the statements made by the commissioner. All in all, I urge those opposite to properly scrutinise the government and they failed.

(Time expired)