



Speech By
Michael Crandon

MEMBER FOR COOMERA

Record of Proceedings, 22 August 2023


APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation Bill

Economics and Governance Committee, Report

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (12.34 pm): I rise to make a contribution on the Economics and Governance Committee budget estimates process and the committee's report No. 50 of the 57th parliament. We have listened today to those opposite criticising the questioning by the members of the opposition and members of the crossbench on more than one occasion. It is interesting that there does not seem to be any problem with the minister or the director-general of the day not actually answering the questions that were asked. I will walk the House through an example of that. In fact, it reminds me of John McEnroe back in the day, if you can remember his great outcry of 'Just answer the question!'

The point is that it is not okay if a member asks a question about a health matter, and just because the word 'health' is referenced in the question, then the minister, the Premier or the director-general goes off on a huge tangent and talks about something else to do with health. If a question is asked, then that question should be answered, yet we saw in the Economics and Governance Committee that the chair of the committee would say, 'The question has been answered. If you don't like the answer, that's not the issue. The question has been answered.' If we said, 'It hasn't been answered. Let's ask the question again,' we were told, 'No. Now you're becoming repetitive.' Think about it, colleagues.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Member for Logan.

Mr CRANDON: If a question is asked and properly answered, we are not going to repeat the question. If a question is asked and the minister, the Premier or the director-general decides, 'The word "police" has been mentioned in this question so I'm going to go off on another tangent and talk about something else completely different,' that is not okay. They have not answered the question.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Logan, I have warned you enough times. You are now on an official warning.

Mr CRANDON: Mr Deputy Speaker, thank you for your protection. That was the situation we found ourselves in right throughout the day. It was a long day but we did not mind; we would have gone on even longer if we could have. We asked questions of all those who came before us—the Premier,

the Treasurer and Minister Hinchliffe, as the minister for sport and those other bits attached to his title. Invariably, what we could be assured of was that the questions asked by the government members would be fully responded to. In fact, you would think those questions were given to those government members beforehand, because it seemed like the ministers had written responses in front of them. When we asked our questions, the ministers just went off on a tangent and talked about this, that or the other thing. It did not matter what the question was about; we never seemed to get a direct answer.

The latest ABS figures tell us that the northern Gold Coast community has had 9.9 per cent growth over the last 10 years from 2012 to 2022. We have a population of 86,000. I can assure the House that those people have had enough of this. Those people have had enough of this type of playing around with the figures and playing around with the questions. I will finish on one high note. After a long fight for a PCYC, we now have a funding commitment from this government. I have been on this road for almost 10 years. We now have \$5 million towards a Police Citizens Youth Club for the people of the northern Gold Coast. I thank the people of the northern Gold Coast community for helping in that fight.