



Speech By  
**Rob Molhoek**

**MEMBER FOR SOUTHPORT**

---

Record of Proceedings, 22 August 2023


## **APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL**

### **APPROPRIATION BILL**

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

#### **Appropriation Bill**

#### **Health and Environment Committee, Report**

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (5.11 pm): Don't you just love the rehash of history? It has been eight years, three terms and four ministers since this side of the House were in government, and they are still trying to blame Campbell Newman for the health system failures.

**Ms Pease** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Hart): Pause the clock. The member for Lytton will cease her interjections.

**Mr MOLHOEK:** They are still trying to blame unprecedented population growth and a myriad other factors for the current health crisis. I want to acknowledge the work of the committee and thank my fellow committee members. I also want to thank those colleagues from my side of the House who participated in the estimates hearing. Most importantly, I want to acknowledge the 105,686 full-time-equivalent health workers who turn up every day across this state and have to deal at the front end, the pointy end, of this health crisis. It is not their fault and they are doing the best they can, but they are not getting the support that they deserve and that Queenslanders deserve from this Labor government.

We have 105,686 full-time employees from the top of Cape York all the way to Coolangatta, and from places like Boulia in the far west—which is actually closer to Adelaide than Brisbane—to places like Bundaberg and all those major coastal regional centres up the eastern seaboard of Queensland, as well as here in South-East Queensland, but what are we doing to support these people? About three years ago, the health committee held an inquiry into health services across Queensland. That report made a whole raft of recommendations to the Queensland parliament and some recommendations to the federal government, which we have no control over. It would be interesting to ask those members on the government side of the House whether any of them have actually followed that report up with the now Albanese government and raised those issues and recommendations with them. I bet we would just hear chirping crickets. I bet that report is sitting in people's offices gathering dust, that it was just a cheap political stunt at the time to try to throw a bit of mud at the LNP government of the day but lacking in sincerity. I bet absolutely nothing has been done to follow up the recommendations of that inquiry.

The health committee at the time spent some six months travelling the length and breadth of Queensland listening to people in rural, regional and remote Queensland. We heard some heartbreaking stories of Queenslanders who were struggling to get basic services and access to

maternity services and mental health services, even just access to basic day-to-day procedures. People are having to be choppered from places like Emerald and Longreach into Rockhampton or the south-east under dire circumstances and emergency circumstances to get the support they need.

There is so much more I could say about the failings of this government, but I would rather spend a bit of time acknowledging a few people in my electorate. I particularly want to pay tribute to Ian Langdon, the chair of the Gold Coast Health Board. He has been on that board for 10 years. He is an absolute true champion of our community, and it would be remiss of me not to mention the great work that he and the board have done. They have worked tirelessly to improve health services and to make them as efficient as they possibly can so they can actually increase services to Gold Coasters. I thank Ian and Ron Calvert.

I also want to pay special tribute to David Green, the head of the ED at Gold Coast University Hospital. David would be embarrassed that he is being mentioned in parliament. I have actually nominated him in the past for Gold Coast citizen of the year and a few other things. He has been there for more than 30 years. We talk about erecting statues of people—which has been another announcement this week, and that is a whole other discussion—but if anyone should have a statue erected in their honour it is Dr David Green. He has worked tirelessly serving the city of the Gold Coast in some of the most extreme circumstances. We owe him a great debt of thanks for the work that he does.