



Speech By  
**Samuel O'Connor**

**MEMBER FOR BONNEY**

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Record of Proceedings, 22 August 2023


**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL**

**APPROPRIATION BILL**

**Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)**

**Appropriation Bill**

**Economics and Governance Committee, Report**

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (12.44 pm): Firstly, I have great news for all Queenslanders: we will have a candidate in the field in Hervey Bay very soon, so they will not have to go through that sort of a contribution again. In relation to innovation, last July the Premier announced the next stage of Advance Queensland. We were told the government was providing \$100 million over three years for new and existing programs under Advance Queensland. We were told this funding was essential to create good jobs in the lead-up to the 2032 Olympics. The innovation minister said this was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and he even justified the time frame for this spending by citing the huge investment in sport tech over the same period. However, at estimates we found out that this promise has been quietly broken. The \$100 million announced last year will now be diluted over five years instead of three, stretching out the funding to 2026-27. This puts innovation in Queensland at risk. The director-general described this as a funding 'deferral', but it is a dilution. It is a broken promise. The minister said it was a decision made through engagement with the sector. Is the innovation minister seriously saying that the tech and innovation community of Queensland did not want this funding spent as soon as possible? There was nowhere in the innovation space that it could be spent. It should also not have taken questions on notice in estimates to reveal this broken promise.

We also found out at estimates that the government has given up on the Future Lab, a native animal genome lab at Dreamworld that would have linked research and tourism of which they approved the millions of dollars for to be redirected into a roller-coaster.