



Speech By
Andrew Powell

MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE

Record of Proceedings, 14 June 2024

COMMITTEES

Estimates Hearings



Mr POWELL (Glass House—LNP) (2.45 pm): I move the following amendment—

That the following words be added to Table 1—Schedule 7:

‘Queensland Hydro

Office of the Independent Implementation Supervisor

Brisbane 2032 Organising Committee

Queensland Small Business Commissioner

Legal Services Commissioner.’

I will address the amendment before turning to the substantive nature of the motion that we have before us with respect to the upcoming estimates. Why have we asked for Queensland Hydro to appear before the estimates hearings? Today we literally had a 100-page report dumped on us with no opportunity to ask questions. Why shouldn't they appear at an estimates hearing where we can prosecute that report? I suspect it is as the Leader of the Opposition raised in his budget reply yesterday, that we want to forensically probe what is occurring at Borumba Dam and ensure the costings and the machinations related to that are transparent and open to the people of Queensland. Similarly, in relation to the Office of the Independent Implementation Supervisor, our shadow minister for family and domestic violence wants to check on the progress of the implementation of a very significant piece of work in ensuring our laws, practices and procedures around domestic violence are being improved in accordance with the various reports that have been tabled.

When it comes to the Brisbane Organising Committee for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, in a moment the deputy leader of the LNP will have the opportunity to rise to contribute to this debate and he will explain why it is important we have that organising committee appear. Having the opportunity to ask questions of the Queensland Small Business Commissioner speaks for itself, as does the Legal Services Commissioner. The Leader of the House talked about his willingness to approach these estimates in a constructive way and with a willingness to offer up improvements. If that is the case then I suggest the Leader of the House accept this amendment that we are making to schedule 7 of the motion.

We heard a lot from the minister about the allocation of 70 per cent of the time for members of the opposition and crossbench. We are also going to hear one opening statement per minister, for their entire portfolio, of no longer than five minutes. What the Leader of the House failed to mention is—

- (b) where a minister administers a number of distinct portfolio matters, matters relating to each portfolio area can only be raised during the period specified for that area in Table 2 ...

I will come back to that. One has to appreciate that whilst he may be offering up 70 per cent to the opposition and crossbench that does not factor in the obstruction and the time-wasting tactics of the chairs and it does not take into consideration the filibustering answers that we get from ministers and, indeed, from some senior public servants.

Let us turn to the allocations of time within this motion. For example—I am sure the deputy leader of the LNP will speak to this—an hour and a half for infrastructure, including Olympic and Paralympic Games infrastructure; an hour and a half for agricultural industry development and rural communities; an hour and a half for police; and for the entire transport and main roads portfolio, sure, we are getting close to four hours with a 15-minute break, but guess at what time of the day it is? It is after five o'clock in the afternoon. Clearly, the government wants to hide from media scrutiny what is going on in that very significant portfolio. What concerns me most is that, on the last day of estimates hearings, youth justice is being given an hour and a half for consideration. Youth Justice, the department at the centre of the youth crime crisis, is being given an hour and a half. I hope the Leader of the House accepts the amendment but, trust me, we will still be opposing the contents of this motion.