




Speech By
Bryson Head

MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

Record of Proceedings, 21 August 2024

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL
APPROPRIATION BILL
Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)
Appropriation Bill

Clean Economy Jobs, Resources and Transport Committee, Report

 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (12.24 pm): I start by acknowledging the final comments the Minister for Transport made in terms of wanting people to answer questions. Estimates is meant to be an opportunity to answer questions. Unfortunately, there are many questions that get posed but very few answers and very little detail comes back. It would be great if the government of the day could actually step up and be up-front and honest in terms of all questions posed during the estimates process.

I would like to thank the hardworking parliamentary staff and committee secretariat for preparing everything for estimates and for their assistance in compiling the report. I thank all members of the committee—my third estimates hearing.

The first estimates session was on the energy portfolio. For those who might not be able to work it out, Callide Power Station is, of course, in the great electorate of Callide.

Mr Stevens: Fair dinkum!

Mr HEAD: It definitely is, member for Mermaid Beach. You never would have guessed. When it comes to the Callide Power Station, we have seen a huge failure on the part of the Miles Labor government in terms of what it has done in running that asset into the ground to the point that the C4 generator exploded and then the cooling tower for C3 collapsed due to a lack of maintenance.

The Labor government talks about giving the people of Biloela certainty with the jobs guarantee. In the jobs guarantee we know that there are relocation packages which provide no certainty for the community of Biloela. The community of Biloela and the surrounding areas do not just want relocation packages. They want certainty that there is a future in that community. That is why the LNP has committed to a maintenance guarantee. The maintenance guarantee ensures not just jobs, but jobs at the Callide Power Station for workers in that community. They tell me they want a future. They want to live in Biloela. They want to work at the power station. They want to raise their families in the great community of Biloela in Central Queensland. The LNP has a plan to deliver a maintenance guarantee to ensure that the power station gets back online and runs for many years to come because we are going to need it to drive down electricity prices in Queensland.

The government talks about hydro projects. We know that the Pioneer-Burdekin scheme in North Queensland is an absolute hoax.

Mr Stevens: Tooth fairy stuff.

Mr HEAD: I take that interjection. It is tooth fairy stuff. There is very little information that we get. We certainly ask many questions. We still do not know what it is going to do to power prices in Queensland if that gets up and running. That is information we do not get from the government when we ask these questions. That is why the LNP has committed to scrapping the Pioneer-Burdekin project if elected.

In regard to the transport session, of course, it would have been great to ask a lot more questions of the minister. In the estimates process we do not get a whole lot of time to ask all the questions we would like to ask on behalf of our electorate. I would have loved to have asked the Minister for Transport about the Mundubbera Durong Road. This road has huge potential to unlock economic opportunities for the people—

Mrs Frecklington: Hear, hear! Sign the petition.

Mr HEAD: I take that interjection from the member for Nanango. There is a petition to sign to upgrade the Mundubbera Durong Road to get road trains into the North Burnett and unlock economic opportunities through that great region. It is the citrus bowl of Queensland and provides a lot of fresh food and fibre for the Queensland community.

Through the great electorate of Callide there is the Warrego Highway, the Bruce Highway, the Leichhardt Highway, the Dawson Highway and the Burnett Highway. There are many highways across my great electorate that are significantly underfunded and deteriorating under the Miles Labor government because of a lack of investment and road maintenance backlogs. We saw during the rain in the electorate the other day—and that was much welcome rain—that it only takes a little bit of rain and potholes form everywhere. The potholes form because of the lack of maintenance on those roads. A lot of those stretches have been overdue for new seals for a very long time.

This government closed the Gin Gin driver reviver on the Bruce Highway. Along one of the deadliest stretches of one of the deadliest roads in the state, they closed the driver reviver. This just shows that the Miles Labor government has the wrong priorities for Queensland.

In the resources session I was incredibly disappointed to hear that when the government remaps vegetation categories in Queensland and changes the vegetation mapping on individual landholder properties they do not even notify those landholders. Those landholders can get a map to manage vegetation. The government changes it and they do not even get notified. Show Labor the door in 2024.