




Speech By
Christopher Whiting

MEMBER FOR BANCROFT

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

Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee, Report

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (2.00 pm): I rise to speak to our committee report on the estimates hearing that we held this year. I find it very interesting that estimates is about an interrogation of the budget, but I always say that we learn more about the LNP when we conduct estimates hearings than from anywhere else. The LNP in this estimates proceedings made a lot of statements, threw a fair bit of shade, constantly peddled derogatory comments and vague figures, made tedious repetition and a lot of, unfortunately, smart alec comments during the—

Ms Pease: Just the usual then?

Mr WHITING: I will take that interjection. At the end of the day they offered nothing to the people of Queensland. In fact, they left us knowing less and holding less than at the beginning of the day. I am reminded of a quote from Thomas Brackett Read, a former Speaker of the US House of Representatives who said, 'They never open their mouths without subtracting from the sum of human knowledge.' I want to thank the member for Caloundra for that quote. Let's compare the contributions from the LNP during estimates to what the Miles government has actually achieved. There are three things. I think this comparison shows how the LNP actually subtract from the sum of human knowledge, at least in the body politic in this state.

One was the announcement of the Waraba PDA by the Minister for State Development and Infrastructure. As members heard this morning, it involves 3,000 hectares and 30,000 homes to cater for 70,000 people, supporting 17,000 jobs and all the LNP said was, 'Why didn't this happen sooner?' not knowing the amount of work that has gone on over the years behind the scenes with the council and the state to get to this point.

Secondly, we heard about some great housing milestones from the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Planning. For example, we supported the purchase of 500 NRAS homes by community housing providers. There are 558 homes under construction by these community housing providers supported by the Miles government, and 1,300 homes are under contract. We heard that, according to a national survey, we have the most satisfied housing tenants in the whole of Australia. All the LNP wanted to talk about and intimate was that homeless people in Cairns did not deserve such high-quality short-term housing. As always, there is that underlying message from the LNP that many public housing tenants in our great state are undeserving and ungrateful. We saw that during the Campbell Newman era and we saw that again during these estimates.

The third thing I want to point out in terms of comparison is how the Miles government was able to demonstrate the progress of our Olympic venues program. We heard about the progress of the Sunshine Coast Stadium and how the Chandler precinct is progressing, and we also heard about the Moreton Bay Indoor Sports Centre. As always, the only thing the LNP focused on was the cost of major stadiums. They did not want to talk about Victoria Park, but they wanted to talk about the cost of the major stadiums. I point out that these were questions, even though repeated endlessly, which had been answered in previous committee hearings on this matter, and I have heard them answered here in parliament as well.

In summing up, if we look at that quote, if we ask what have the LNP contributed, what I can say is they have added nothing to the sum of political life and of public life here in Queensland. Anything that was uncovered in this estimates was already known. In fact, with their constant interjections, their bad manners, their sneering, they subtract and detract from all that we do here. What we have seen with estimates is that the LNP offer nothing to the people of Queensland. They have nothing. They stand for nothing. I know the member for Kawana will be next on his feet. The challenge to him is to demonstrate how, if he were in government, he would add to the sum of life here in Queensland instead of detract from it. I commend the bill to the House.