




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

Record of Proceedings, 21 August 2024

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

Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee, Report

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (2.35 pm): I also rise to contribute to the estimates report, particularly in relation to water, regional development and manufacturing. It was interesting that Minister Grace, who just spoke, said that all she sees is documents from 10 years ago. After having sat here for the last 10 years, all we hear about from the minister and her colleagues is what happened 12 years ago—constantly harping back to an old government over a decade ago.

What do we have here? We have a Premier who is trying to frame himself up as the new Premier. One good thing that this new supposed Premier did—because he was the former deputy premier and all those other ministers for the last decade that led to the failings of the Miles government because he took over from the former Palaszczuk government—was give the Minister for Manufacturing the ability to answer questions on train manufacturing, so it was a very enjoyable estimates where I could ask the manufacturing minister something about train manufacturing, because every other year he fobbed it off to the transport minister, and he talked about Korea quite a lot. We know that the new Minister for Transport and Main Roads certainly would not be able to answer questions in relation to train manufacturing.

Apart from the disclosure of the private information from Downer released in the parliament—and there are still no real answers to that—I was deeply concerned for the workers of Downer in Maryborough where they have discovered asbestos in the boardroom. They have discovered asbestos in the boardroom so that meant that they were unable to meet with the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, the shadow minister for transport and myself on a prearranged visit to Maryborough last week. I do hope the asbestos has been cleaned up, I do hope that all of the workers at Downer are safe and I do hope that it was not the big hand of the Miles government trying to stop us visiting Downer. We know that this minister is under the pump and that is why he did not want us to go into Downer. We on this side of the House take asbestos very seriously and so I hope that the Minister for Transport, the Minister for Manufacturing and the assistant minister for train manufacturing have not been subjected to that asbestos in the boardroom at Downer—and, goodness me, make sure you get yourselves checked out! Imagine the poor person at Downer who had to make the call to us and say, 'We've found asbestos in the boardroom so you can't come. The minister has said you can't come.' Anyway, we also discovered once again 85—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Order, members! Pause the clock. Minister, we will have no arguing across the chamber please.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: We also discussed the Korean involvement in making the prototypes, with an 85.6 per cent stake in the joint venture. We discussed the workers camp that is being built outside of Maryborough, and it would be good to see some locals able to get those jobs in that vitally important manufacturing.

We talked about the regional forums and how they have been axed and replaced with community cabinets, which comes under the Premier. I note that the manufacturing minister picked up train manufacturing but lost his regional development portfolio, which is a shame because at least he knows where regional Queensland is. However, they have kept the Gold Coast and Sunny coast regional forums. I wonder if that has something to do with keeping the seats of Gaven and Caloundra.

We then moved on to water, but I do not have enough time to cover everything. We talked about a desalination plant. Still the minister is refusing to rule out a desalination plant. In fact, he mentioned the northern Sunshine Coast. I ask the member for Noosa if she knows whether the desalination plant will be built in her patch. We know full water plans have been delayed. Two years ago it was announced that the Flinders unallocated water project would go out to tender, but on 14 March the minister's department said, 'No, we're going to close off that tender.' That was irrespective of the fact that companies have spent hundreds of thousands of dollars. I will be interested to see what compensation will be made there. We also talked about the Haughton pipeline blowout.

The greatest infrastructure fail under the Labor government is Paradise Dam, and the member for Bundaberg could not ask even one question about that most important issue. It is only the LNP that is supporting the rebuild of the Paradise Dam. The housing minister is here so I note that 10 homes are still vacant in Somerset Dam Village. They could be housing—

(Time expired)