



Speech By  
**Jason Hunt**

**MEMBER FOR CALOUNDRA**

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Record of Proceedings, 20 August 2024


## **APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL**

### **APPROPRIATION BILL**

#### **Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)**

#### **Appropriation Bill**

#### **Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee, Report**

 **Mr HUNT** (Caloundra—ALP) (8.11 pm): I rise to make this brief contribution to the estimates process of 2024. From the outset, I again thank the secretariat and the Parliamentary Service staff for the exemplary way they supported the hearings. It will come as no shock to learn that the committee recommends that the proposed expenditure as detailed in the Appropriation Bill 2024 for the committee's areas of responsibility be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly without amendment.

For DJAG, the proposed budget comprises \$1.343 billion in departmental expenditure and \$563 million in funding to be administered by DJAG on behalf of the state. Our government can very proudly claim that in this one term alone we have increased funding for initiatives including the domestic, family and sexual violence sector, the implementation of the domestic and family violence foundational training modules and support for victims of crime.

Insofar as the Queensland police are concerned, the committee heard that the proposed budget comprises \$3.7 billion in QPS expenditure and \$14.1 million in funding to be administered by the QPS on behalf of the state. The proposed budget expense of \$3.69 billion in 2024-25 is an increase of \$289 million from the 2023-24 estimated actual. The increase is mainly due to the recruitment of additional police officers, enterprise bargaining agreements and the transition of the SES from the Queensland Fire Department to QPS.

For the Sunshine Coast, I am particularly pleased to acknowledge that a portion of this \$3.6 billion has gone to the brand new police station in Caloundra, greatly increasing the police presence and community safety. Also improving community safety is the soon-to-be-finalised arrangement of a police helicopter for the Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay—another community safety enhancement for our two regions. It also includes a very exciting investment for Caloundra and the hinterland—the much anticipated PCYC that will add so much to our community, as PCYCs invariably do. I can say with absolute certainty that the community reaction to this announcement has been electric.

Similarly, the Queensland Fire Department were only too happy to discuss the brand new fire station in Caloundra, along with significant rebuilds to the original station in Caloundra and the station in Beerwah. Our Miles government will have opened three brand new additions to community safety in Caloundra. That is a feat the LNP never managed in the previous 100 years of representing Caloundra. A literal LNP century could not match a single term of expenditure from this government.

Strangely, the opposition members were not keen to unpack that fact during the estimates process, but the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Ninderry did bring a certain comedic quality to the hearings. While desperately trying to find some wrongdoing on the part of the Queensland Police Service providing QGAir flights to North Queensland, the Leader of the Opposition stated—

Commissioner, firstly, thank you for providing the honesty that the Premier refused to earlier in the week.

To which Commissioner Gollschewski said—

Firstly, to help clarify, I had these figures because I have asked for them this week. We did not have these figures.

The Leader of the Opposition's clumsy assertion was that the Premier was being dishonest because he could not provide figures that nobody, including the QPS, had available at the time. I mean, honestly, what sort of a party leader would conceal sums of money that they were well aware of but were too afraid to make public because an election was looming? What sort of a party leader would be well aware of obligations around large sums of money—let us say \$200,000, to choose a figure at random—but then hide the details of that money from the people of Queensland—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Member, I will ask you to come back to the substance of the debate.

**Mr HUNT:** Certainly. Not to be outdone, the member for Ninderry tried to put words into the mouth of the Police Commissioner by saying—

Commissioner ... when did you book your jet and where did you record the direction from the Premier requiring you to attend this trip?

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr HUNT:** You will love the answer. He said—

I did not have any conversations with the Premier, member, if that is what you asking. You mention a 'direction from the Premier', there was certainly no direction.

To attempt to undermine a long-serving police officer like the commissioner is a curious tactic, even for the LNP. Unsurprisingly, it failed, much like the LNP's efforts in estimates more broadly.