



Speech By
Joan Pease

MEMBER FOR LYTTON

Record of Proceedings, 20 August 2024


APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation Bill

Clean Economy Jobs, Resources and Transport Committee, Report

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (9.10 pm): I rise today to speak to report No. 10 of the 57th Parliament's Clean Economy Jobs, Resources and Transport Committee review of the 2024-25 budget estimates, Appropriation Bill 2024. I would like to begin by acknowledging all of the members of the committee who participated in the estimates process—unlike those opposite, who only acknowledged the opposition members. I would also like to acknowledge the work of the crossbenchers who participated in estimates. I would particularly like to acknowledge the parliamentary staff who work to put on the estimates process as well as acknowledge the hard work of our public servants who work each and every day to serve Queenslanders. Let's not forget that that is what public servants do—they serve Queensland and deliver all of the services that we need to run this great state that we love to call home.

The committee heard from the Minister for Energy and Clean Economy Jobs, the Minister for Resources and Critical Minerals and the Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services regarding the proposed expenditure for their portfolio areas. We heard from the Minister for Energy that the Queensland government's important investment in the state's publicly owned electricity generators, with sustaining capital over the last three years, what it intends to spend in the current budget period and what results they are delivering for Queenslanders in terms of reliability and affordability.

The good news is that Queensland's generator assets continue to be reliable and secure. The Australian Energy Market Operator's 2023 Electricity Statement of Opportunities report forecasts that Queensland has one of the best reliable outlooks over the next several years. This was further demonstrated earlier this year when the state achieved a record maximum operational demand of over 11,000 megawatts. We have stable and reliable energy assets in this state which we own. This is unlike what would happen if the opposition got into power.

I would also like to acknowledge the great success of 50-cent fares and the ongoing Big Build, particularly the Lindum level crossing upgrade in my electorate. Let's not forget the critical minerals contribution to our great state.

As members know, a primary function of parliament is to scrutinise and hold to account the executive branch of government. The estimates process is one of the key mechanisms by which the parliament examines government expenditure, performance and effectiveness. This process holds ministers to account and provides transparency to the public.

The LNP opposition certainly had ample opportunity to scrutinise government ministers, yet in their statement of reservation they again whinged and complained, with allegations of obfuscation and concealment. Non-government members had 444 minutes, or 84 per cent, of question time and asked 157 of the 188 questions. Further, government questioning was just 152 minutes. I say to those opposite: if you do not have enough time to scrutinise the bills, maybe you are not asking the right questions.

I am proud to be a member of a Queensland government that is happy to open its doors and windows—a government that is open and honest, that is accountable and transparent. It has nothing to hide. That is good for democracy and it is good for Queensland. What would happen to accountability and transparency in this state if the LNP formed government and the member for Broadwater became premier? What is his record? We know for a fact that the Queensland opposition leader paid \$200,000 in settling claims to liquidate—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Member for Lytton, other members have been warned to not go down that path, to stick to the debate at hand, and I would ask you to stick to the debate on the estimates process.

Ms PEASE: Going back to the estimates process, what concerns me is the opposition's capacity to put up shutters and not subject itself to scrutiny. This goes to the very heart of those opposite. As the saying goes, if someone shows you who they are, believe them the first time. We would expect to see government scrutiny disappear if the member for Broadwater became premier.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Lytton, back to the bill, please.

Ms PEASE: What is at stake at the next Queensland election on 26 October is transparency and accountability, which we saw in our estimates hearing.