



Speech By
Kim Richards

MEMBER FOR REDLANDS

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 RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (9.00 pm): I start by thanking all who participated in the estimates process. It was probably one of the longest estimates sessions. The behaviours were interesting on the day. Tone, engagement and words really matter. I remind everybody in the House of how important that is. From the get-go I said that I would conduct the day in a fair and even-handed manner and I believe that was absolutely the case. I am advised that the time allocated was well over the 70-30 split and was somewhere nearer a 25-75 split. Therefore, I was a little disappointed to read in the statement of reservation that opposition members said the process was characterised by obfuscation and concealment and was lacking in transparency when so much time was given. Latitude was also given in terms of allowing the CEO from Queensland Hydro, who was not a scheduled 7 witness, to participate and talk about all of the good work that is happening in the renewable space, particularly given how important it is in terms of how Queensland reaches its targets with pumped hydro. I thank the minister for allowing that to occur on the day.

When we talk about the budget and the estimates process, our Miles Labor government is absolutely doing what matters. It was a real privilege to chair that particular session of estimates when we look at all of the work we have been doing in the energy space and what we have been providing in cost-of-living relief for Queenslanders with the \$1,000 energy rebate and additional money for pensioners and seniors. It builds on the huge investment that we have made in providing rebates to Queenslanders since 2018. That is our track record on delivering for Queenslanders when it comes to relief on their energy bills. Therefore, I was particularly proud to be a part of that process.

We also examined the transport, main roads and digital services portfolios, which is another extraordinarily important area for Queenslanders. I think everyone in this chamber would have constituents who are to some degree enjoying our 50-cent fares.

Government members interjected.

Ms RICHARDS: Fifty-cent fares; that is right. I know our ferries to the Southern Moreton Bay Islands are going gangbusters. I have never seen 10,000 people happier to be receiving a 50-cent ferry fare. The ferry fare is amazing. When we talk to constituents about the 20 per cent off car rego—

Mr Walker: They love it.

Ms RICHARDS: Member for Mundingburra, they absolutely love what our Miles Labor government is doing for Queenslanders because we are helping put money back into their pockets. That is what the budget is all about and it is what the interrogation of the budget through the estimates process should have been all about. There is very important work going in terms of our Big Build, which includes investment in roads and bridges to connect our communities. Our state is one of the largest states—

A government member: It is booming.

Ms RICHARDS: It is absolutely booming. I want to give a huge shout-out to TMR for all the work that they have done, which is included in the budget, as a result of the natural disasters that Queensland has experienced. Our investment in helping communities recover is reflected in the budget and that is probably not touched on enough.

Our Miles Labor government is focusing on what matters for Queensland. It is focusing on putting money back into the pockets of people and it is using coal royalties. I do not know about anybody else in the chamber, but I know constituents in my community are extraordinarily pleased that we are making the big mining giants pay their fair share of taxes. The money that is coming into Queensland bank accounts is coming from the coal royalties paid by the big mining companies. We know that that would be the first thing that those on the other side would wipe. If that is the first thing that they would wipe then I do not think they would be providing any cost-of-living relief to Queenslanders. We will not see 50-cent public transport fares, which are a game changer in connecting—

An opposition member: What rubbish.

Ms RICHARDS: It is not rubbish at all; I take that interjection. If you are not going to take the coal royalties then how will you fund this type of cost-of-living relief? That is what matters to Queensland and that is what our Miles Labor government will do.