




Speech By
Linus Power

MEMBER FOR LOGAN

Record of Proceedings, 1 May 2024

COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (2.11 pm): I did note there was some guidance from the chair about reflecting on speakers and chairs. I do note there was a bit of reflection there and I think it was entirely unwarranted. As the chair of the Economics and Governance Committee, now the Cost of Living and Economics Committee, I sincerely apologise to the member for Hervey Bay and the member for Macalister because I gave so much time to the opposition.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Through the chair, member for Logan.

Mr POWER: I apologise through the chair to those two members, because I gave so much time to the opposition that the member for Hervey Bay and the member for Macalister were not able to put important questions about the structure of our budget, our Big Build projects and the financing of those projects. Although the member for Glass House says we should not rely on the quantity of questions, I do want to address that because it shows how much time I did not give to the member for Hervey Bay and the member for Macalister. It is on me that I gave them over an hour extra.

I thought, 'Surely the other chairs wouldn't be this bad. They wouldn't have hurt their fellow members of parliament in the same way I did.' Then I looked at it, and some of them really need to apologise to their government members too because they just did not give them the time to really examine the important road building projects we are doing or the important things we are doing in state development like the new housing and new schools we are building. Was there a question from government members—this would have been a question on everyone's lips—about the new South Rock State School that was being built at Yarrabilba? They did not get the chance because we gave too much time to the opposition. The government would have wanted to ask questions about South Rock State School, but I know the opposition is never going to ask about that because they are not interested in the new building program we have in education.

There was 140 minutes of government questioning and they had 268. We had a debate about quality and quantity. We know about their quantity arguments, but you cannot tell me that the opposition's quality was so bad that they needed twice as much time. It seems they did, because even though they had twice as much time, the opposition's quality was so bad that they are now saying they want even more time because their quality was so poor. I hate to get back to quantitative things, because this is what has been criticised, but we need to interpret it through the eyes of the Leader of the Opposition. We need to interpret through his eyes and how he feels. How many questions did I rule out of order? The answer is pretty easy to count to. Even the member for Everton could do it. The answer is zero. All of the questions were put to the ministers. A lot of them were highly irregular. I have to admit that the deputy chair, the member for Mermaid Beach, always has good questions. If only some of his team could take leadership from the member for Mermaid Beach. He would not be talking about this spurious qualitative/quantitative thing. I will talk about another quantitative thing. Back when they were in government how many days did the estimates process go over?

Mr King: Two days.

Mr POWER: It was constrained to two days so they could hide it as much as possible. During that period did they give more time to the then Palaszczuk opposition or less time than the government? The answer is clear: they gave them less time. We have fair chairs who put all of the questions to the ministers. I think all of the chairs were fair. We also gave them much more time, but nothing can make up for the lack of quality in the opposition.