



Speech By
Linus Power

MEMBER FOR LOGAN

Record of Proceedings, 20 August 2024


APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation (Parliament) Bill

Cost of Living and Economics Committee, Report

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (5.09 pm): I rise as the chair of the Cost of Living and Economics Committee to report on the estimates hearing held into the appropriations for the parliament. Specifically, I want to thank the committee members: the members for Mermaid Beach, Whitsunday, Coomera, Macalister and Mount Ommaney. I want to thank the other members who attended, including the member for Glass House, who shall no doubt be speaking in this debate. He was enthusiastic to attend. I also thank those who appeared before us including Mr Speaker and the Clerk of the Parliament, Mr Laurie.

This morning when I saw a group gathered under the stained-glass windows and reflected on the long list of members whose names are displayed in the hallway, I felt the great responsibility we have in this place to scrutinise the appropriations for the democratic institution that we preserve in this place. It is not just the physical building; it is also the hardworking staff, from the Speaker and the Clerk down, who facilitate the debates we need to have in this place. The appropriation for parliament is a great responsibility.

In the hearing we talked about the accessibility of this place, being the house for all Queenslanders. My late father, Des Power, was a teacher of the deaf. I am particularly passionate about Auslan and the language that deaf people in Australia, through two dialects—the Sydney and Melbourne dialects—have developed from British Sign Language and other influences. It was great to see that the Speaker had gone out of his way to use his connections to create a new youth parliament for young deaf people to use Auslan in this place and to have a simultaneous translation. I note that this will not include the deputy chair because his Auslan skills are not up to it, but I grew up with Auslan. My father was on the committee that gave the name Auslan to Australian Sign Language. I grew up amongst the community that created deaf theatre, deaf speeches and activities so I was constantly surrounded by this. The deaf community gave an enormous amount to my father and to my family. We were inspired by them as part of the diversity of this country.

I note initiatives to bring the parliament to others, for example using Minecraft. The Speaker encouraged young primary school children to show interest in the parliament by creating a virtual Minecraft parliament which people could attend. I think it is very important that the appropriations provide for committees to engage with the entire estimates process, which has been held for so many years, but also that we continue to make it more accessible to more people.

I want to thank Hansard, who were appropriated for in this budget. I thank the audio and broadcast team—I thank Lindsay every time—who do a fantastic job to make sure we have clarity of sound. I thank our committee. I am sure the deputy chair will join me in thanking Tim and Melissa for the excellent work they do in supporting our committee.

Parliament is for the people. This appropriation to the parliament is something that I endorse because it involves so many more people in the process of this parliament and makes it more accessible to so many more people. This, of course, includes the community of the deaf in Queensland.