



Speech By
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MEMBER FOR LOGAN

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APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation Bill

Cost of Living and Economics Committee, Report

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (11.38 am): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Cost of Living and Economics Committee's report on the Appropriation Bill. I am pleased to report to the House that the committee recommends that the proposed expenditure as detailed in the Appropriation Bill for the committee's area of responsibility be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly.

This estimates process provided a record time for the examination of the budget. Never before have the opposition had so much time to ask questions about the detail of the budget. In total, there were 351 minutes, almost six hours, of questions that were put by the opposition—that was over 70 per cent of the time allocated for questions—and crossbench members. That is why it was so disappointing—and no doubt we were all disappointed—that so many of the 131 questions put by the opposition were more concerned with political pointscore and going over issues that had already been canvassed in the House on multiple occasions.

The estimates process should be a unique opportunity to examine the future expenditure for the next four years laid out in the budget. However, it is disappointing that the member for Broadwater's first 17 questions and interventions were not about the expenditure in the budget but about a single political point about a flight in the past which had been raised in this House previously on more than four occasions. Why would he throw away such an opportunity? The statement of reservation in the committee report states—

Effective service delivery comes a distant second in competing with political objectives and Queenslanders continue to be let down.

I think this is actually a secret attack on those first 17 questions from the member for Broadwater. Indeed, his 17 interventions and questions before he retreated in a huff were all about political objectives. This shows the member for Broadwater puts service delivery at a distant second. Indeed, the people of Queensland continue to be let down by the member for Broadwater and his failures.

I asked the Premier and the Treasurer what I think the people of Logan would want to know about: the key issues of the future. People in Logan want to know about public transport and road congestion. In response to my question to the Premier, he reminded us that he has been focusing on these since he was a teenager getting the Petrie train from outer suburbia right up to today. He gets it. He wants to help out a bit. He pointed out that a full train can take 600 cars off congested roads and that our 50-cent fares represent a saving of \$6 for a teenager from Yarrabilba or Jimboomba going to TAFE, work or uni. That is why I said he gets it and he takes action. He spoke of the extra investment

we are making into our bus network. That includes the new bus for Logan Reserve and Park Ridge West and expansions for the Yarrabilba 587 bus. I am so passionate about public transport that I am almost as passionate about outer suburban public transport as our Premier.

While benefitting from reduced congestion we also helped our drivers with a 20 per cent discount on car registration. That is not just for cars but also for all light vehicles and trailers. The Premier spoke of Logan kids paying sport and the assistance this government can give to Logan families to ensure a kid who is facing financial pressures at home can still get the great benefits of community sports like at the Mustangs or the Panthers with the expansion of the FairPlay vouchers. The member for Macalister recognised that Logan families like ours can struggle with household bills. The Premier gets this. That is why he is helping out with a \$1,000 rebate on electricity bills. All over the world and in every state in Australia there is pressure on bills. That is why the Premier is providing more assistance than any other state. Logan residents appreciate the help and the Premier is focused on helping our families with car registration, with bus and train fares, with household bills, with seniors and with kids in sport.

I also want to speak about our economy. We now have more than 200,000 Logan residents working. That is an increase in the last two years of over 12,000 families. That is 12,000 breadwinners in their house who now work but who were not in work previously. That is a great achievement of a strong economy. The member for Broadwater, of course, asked nothing about any of these issues. While there are many questions Queenslanders have about the budget, there was not a single question that actually spoke about the investments of over \$200,000. We saw the shadow opposition minister the member for Toowoomba South ask about smaller amounts. Many Queenslanders will be asking about the many debts racked up by the businesses all over South-East Queensland.