



Speech By  
**Michael Hart**


**MEMBER FOR BURLEIGH**

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Record of Proceedings, 21 August 2024

**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL**  
**APPROPRIATION BILL**  
**Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)**  
**Appropriation Bill**

**Housing, Big Build and Manufacturing Committee, Report**

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (2.56 pm): I rise to talk about the estimates process for the last time in this House, as the member for Lockyer said. I have been involved in 12 estimates processes since Labor came to power in 2015. The estimates process has been a complete and utter farce and almost a waste of time.

The government members crow about the LNP getting the majority of time to ask questions, but each chair of the committees—especially the chair of our committee—held up those questions by quizzing everything the LNP had to say and the ministers wasted time in answering. Instead of being concise and accurate, they waffled on to waste time. That is how most of the time was consumed.

I would like to tackle a couple of things the water minister had to say, given he was last on his feet. This government does not like building dams. It never has.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr HART:** If members would like to listen, in 2017 I went to Rockhampton to announce that the LNP would build Rookwood Weir. The members for Keppel and Rockhampton were nowhere to be seen at the time. They said it was not required. They said, 'We don't need this dam.' Suddenly, the federal government and the state government put up money for it, and now they are taking credit for something they had absolutely no interest in. In fact, the only dam construction it has done—

**Ms LAUGA:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence of the member's comments and I ask him to withdraw.

**Mr HART:** I withdraw. The only construction this government has done on dams is to deconstruct the Paradise Dam. It has not done anything to replace the water it has taken away from there. Those opposite hate building dams. The only thing they like to talk about is desal plants, and they are keeping most of that a secret. They would not tell us anything at estimates about where they intend to build these desal plants that they think can save everything.

This government seems to be putting all its eggs in one big basket with the Pioneer-Burdekin pumped hydro scheme. If the government is going to rely on renewable energy, it needs storage to back it up; otherwise, the energy system in this state will collapse. There is no doubt about that. If the government builds two big hydro plants, as it seems intent on doing—without business cases, without knowing how much they are going to cost and without knowing the impact that will have on the price of electricity for Queenslanders—and one of them fails, what happens to electricity if there is no storage available? That is why it is a better idea to build quite a few of them.

**Mr Power:** Where are they?

**Mr HART:** There are thousands of sites in Queensland.

**Mr Power** interjected.

**Mr HART:** If the member for Logan would like to read his own report, he will see that there are 1,200 sites in Queensland alone that would take a hydro scheme. This government does not bother to look at that. They are looking at the easy way out. They are looking at the most socially—

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Lui): Member for Burleigh, I ask you to resume your seat. The time for the debate on this report has expired.