



Speech By
Hon. Nikki Boyd

MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS

Record of Proceedings, 20 August 2024


APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation Bill

Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee, Report

 **Hon. N BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (Minister for Fire and Disaster Recovery and Minister for Corrective Services) (8.51 pm): I rise to make a contribution in response to the report tabled by the Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee regarding the estimates hearing held on 26 July 2024. While I have already placed on record my thanks to the committee and the secretariat for their work in conducting these hearings and preparing this report, I again want to thank all those involved. I note that the committee has recommended that the proposed expenditure be agreed to, and I can understand why. The first budget of the Miles government is a budget that focuses on what matters to Queenslanders. In my portfolio areas that means investing in more firefighters and equipment for frontline personnel like our rural volunteers, it means investing in more Corrective Services officers and it means investing in the Queensland Reconstruction Authority so it has the capacity to be there when Queenslanders need it most, and we can see that in the budget handed down by the Deputy Premier.

In Queensland Corrective Services we have committed almost \$2 billion because when you are tough on crime and tough on the causes of crime you need more prison beds, more staff and more programs to address recidivism. This is the first budget as part of the new Queensland Fire Department which sees more than \$1 billion for more fleet, facilities and firefighting equipment across both Queensland Fire and Rescue and the Rural Fire Service. To be absolutely clear, this budget also delivers \$4 million for the start of remediation works to address PFAS at the Ayr Fire and Rescue Station as work is underway to determine a new site. Right now QFD is working to secure land for that new site which is something you do when you are going to build a replacement fire station. I also need to point out to members opposite that stopping drugs getting into prisons is a good thing. In fact, it is essential to maintaining a safe environment for staff.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms BOYD: I cannot understand for the life of me why they raised an increase in seized contraband in their statement of reservation as a concern when getting drugs out of prisons is a good thing. I have also been advised that non-government members had more than 80 per cent of the time for questions during the committee's hearing and 84 per cent of the questions. I do note that there were

very few unique questions from opposition members of the committee and the shadow minister had to outsource his job to the member for Kawana. The member for Burdekin resorted to name-calling and I can only assume that is something—

Opposition members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Order, members! Pause the clock, please. Members for Nanango and Whitsunday, you have continued to interject since I have been in the chair. I will issue warnings if it continues.

Mrs Frecklington: I didn't interject once on Minister Ryan.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, I will give you that one. For further interjections you will be warned.

Ms BOYD: The member for Burdekin resorted to name-calling and I can only assume this is because he does not like being criticised. It seems to be a common trait for the LNP and it looks to me as though it comes from the top. The Leader of the Opposition has questions to answer about being a director of a company that is suspected to have been trading while insolvent, but he ducks and he covers. He secretly settled claims with liquidators to the tune of—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order regarding relevance.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister, there has been guidance issued tonight around keeping relevant to the estimates process. I will ask you to stay focused on that.

Ms BOYD: Yes, of course; thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. This is relevant because budget estimates is about the budget and the responsible investment of taxpayer funds. How do we best invest those funds to protect Queenslanders at a time of natural disaster? How do we best invest those funds to support frontline service delivery to respond to floods and fires? How do we best invest those funds to ensure our prisons run smoothly and to keep our communities safe? Running an insolvent fire department does not work. Running insolvent prisons does not work. You need to be able to pay staff for their hard work and pay suppliers for their equipment, but if you cannot pay your debts when they are due that is trading insolvent. This is why the Leader of the Opposition must answer questions, and that is what ministers on this side of the House did. We answered questions about the budget and we answered questions about how we are investing taxpayer funds.

Opposition members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members!

Mr O'Connor interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Bonney, you are warned under the standing orders.

Ms BOYD: Why can't the Leader of the Opposition answer any questions today? I welcome the opportunity to speak on this issue and I would welcome—

Mr BOOTHMAN: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order regarding relevance. This has nothing to do with the estimates.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister, I have taken advice. I will ask that you tighten your focus. I appreciate your comments are speaking to financial accountability, but they are straying now into areas that previous rulers have determined are outside of the scope.

Ms BOYD: Thank you for your guidance, Madam Deputy Speaker.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr Stevens interjected.

Ms BOYD: I take the interjection from the member for Nanango.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Mermaid Beach is warned under the standing orders.

Mr Saunders interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Who was that? The member for Maryborough is also warned.

Ms BOYD: I welcome the opportunity to speak about the really important expenditure that the Miles government has made in this budget. It is a budget with record investment for our new Queensland Fire Department, for our Queensland Reconstruction Authority and for Corrective Services as well. We value our front line and we will continue to invest in it.