



Speech By  
**Ray Stevens**

**MEMBER FOR MERMAID BEACH**

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**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL**

**APPROPRIATION BILL**

**Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)**

**Appropriation (Parliament) Bill**

**Cost of Living and Economics Committee, Report**

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (5.24 pm): As a long-term member of the currently called COLEC, formerly the Economics and Governance Committee, I am pleased this afternoon to say that at this year's estimates there were some very positive outcomes. For me, the most positive outcome of all was the movement—as far as I can remember the only time it has been moved—to the Monday, sitting as a standalone estimates investigation of the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill. That enabled a much better examination of the parliamentary expenditure for the year ahead and also enabled the COLEC on the following day to have a little less time in the saddle, as it were, to investigate both the Premier and the Treasurer on their estimates process. That was a very positive move that I hope stays in place for years to come for this particular committee.

The second positive aspect that I would like to mention in relation to this year's estimates committee is the fact that the crossbench and the opposition were allocated 70 per cent of the questions, which limited the Dorothy Dixier questions coming from the government side, which are basically ministerial statements for the ministers, to 30 per cent. I believe that was also a very positive step forward in this year's estimates process.

We had the Speaker and the Clerk of the Parliament itemise their very busy scheduling in relation to the fantastic \$68 million expenditure on the upgrades of the Parliamentary Annexe and offices for staff, in particular parliamentary staff, and also accommodation areas for the members of the parliament. There was also the accounting for \$12 million towards new staffing arrangements in the 93 electorate offices to assist with the extra workload. I understand that has been designed through the Department of the Premier and Cabinet to assist local members to better carry out their job representing the people of their communities.

However, as the Manager of Opposition Business mentioned earlier, there was great exposure in relation to a \$153,000 inquiry that basically seemed to produce no results. It was also a great opportunity to hear from the Clerk how the CFMEU had infiltrated the parliamentary precinct and continued their notorious activity in the very hallowed halls of this fabulous House that we protect from bad behaviour on the parliamentary precinct at every opportunity through the fabulous Ethics Committee, represented by wonderful members.

We have been very well served by our Parliamentary Service staff on this particular committee. I would certainly like to thank our newly inducted senior officer Tim Horne for his great work, ably assisted by Mel, in delivering at all times excellent reports for the committee that allows it to do its very important business. Again, I would like to congratulate the Clerk on his staffing and the wonderful job they do in supporting members right through from the accommodation for the officers to the many services including for me particularly; I am very much into the IT help from the Parliamentary Service. I was actually scammed the other day and they had to clean all my computers and things like that.

I am very appreciative of the work the parliamentary staff do. We cannot thank them enough. I know all members support and appreciate the great work they do for them. I am very pleased that this year's estimates for the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill was a very sound success.