



Speech By  
**Sandy Bolton**

**MEMBER FOR NOOSA**

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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**

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (8.36 pm): I rise to respond to the Community Safety and Legal Affairs Committee's report No. 16 on budget estimates for 2023-24. First, I want to thank the government for amending the standing orders, in response to our efforts, to allow crossbench members to submit questions on notice to all ministers as part of greater efficiencies and for giving the opposition and crossbench greater time allocations at the hearings. I would also like to thank our chair, Peter Russo, for giving even more time than the 70 per cent allocated. I thank Attorney-General D'Ath and ministers Ryan and Boyd as well as the departmental and agency staff, who responded openly. My questions, totalling 23, covered a broad range of subjects, from the banning of political donations and the implementation of youth justice inquiry recommendations all the way to mental health co-responders and disaster management.

Regarding recommendation 13 from the youth justice inquiry, to develop a pilot victim advocate service, the Attorney-General advised that the government had contacted Deakin University to co-design, develop, deliver and evaluate a statewide, victim-centric and trauma informed advocate model to be piloted between 2025 and 2027. On the consideration of the model for youth justice put forward by Mr Keith Hamburger AM, the good news is that this has been referred to the Independent Ministerial Advisory Council for consideration. The Minister for Police updated us on the youth co-responder team to be established on the Sunshine Coast which starts next month.

In terms of what is provided to ensure detainees in corrective services who are transferred from youth justice receive ongoing and appropriate rehabilitation—this is important—while a range of programs were identified, there was no guarantee that youth who finish their sentences in adult facilities would receive the same, as funding for rehabilitation stops coming from the youth justice budget and moves to corrective services. This needs to be addressed.

In addition, recommendation 36 of the youth justice inquiry was for government to fund a minimum 12-month transition plan for every child or young person transitioning back into the community after detention with a skills, education and health focus, including residential accommodation options. If we are to address criminality in young Queenslanders, we must have at least a 12-month transition plan, regardless of whether it is funded under youth justice or adult corrections.

Regarding infrastructure for our Rural Fire Brigade, that a review of the facilities is occurring this year is good news; however, it is well overdue, with substandard facilities such as those at Tinbeerwah urgently needing upgrades. We need to do this for our volunteers. We need to look after them.

Questions on disaster resilience confirmed that related funding is not dependent on local governments having coastal hazard adaptation plans. However, these plans including forward modelling have big impacts on Queenslanders. Residents' house insurance premiums have skyrocketed due to insurance companies looking at future flooding predictions identified in these CHAPs, leaving many unable to afford them. There are also planning restrictions due to excessively cautious interpretations of inundation. For example, climate predictions out to 2100 are seeing erosion lines mapped 100 metres behind current beachfronts, potentially blocking home owners from doing any renovations or rebuilds—that is some 86 years away—with modelling that does not take into account conflicting analysis.

May greater understanding come from a pair of Commonwealth parliamentary inquiries. One is into insurers' responses to the 2022 major floods claims looking at the impact of land use planning decisions and disaster mitigation efforts on the availability and affordability of insurance, with the report due in October. The second is into the impact of climate risk on insurance premiums and availability and is due in November. All levels of government should look at the results of these and work out how they can reduce the immediate impact on Queenslanders while making reasonable adjustments for long-term climate impacts.

As mentioned, I say thank you to all involved in the estimates hearings, including our fantastic secretariat—and we did have a very long day—and for the improvements that have been welcomed. However, more does need to be done and I ask that all support our request for a review of the committee and estimates processes and that this be undertaken in the beginning of the new term.