




Speech By  
**Bisma Asif**

**MEMBER FOR SANDGATE**

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### **APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL; GOVERNANCE, ENERGY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE, REPORT**

 **Ms ASIF** (Sandgate—ALP) (12.49 pm): I rise in consideration of the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee report No. 12. I would like to thank all witnesses who appeared before the committee including the Public Sector Commission, the Queensland Audit Office, Treasury staff, Department of Trade, Employment and Training staff, along with the parliamentary staff who assisted in the committee hearing process.

When the Premier took office he promised reform, transparency and accountability. He promised a fresh start. Instead, what we have witnessed through these estimates processes is a government that speaks loudly about change but acts sneakily to protect itself from scrutiny. A common theme during the estimates process of the Crisafulli government was a refusal to answer questions and an inability to provide clarity. Queenslanders are feeling burned and they need answers.

A lot of revelations were made throughout the estimates process, part of which included answers on the housing crisis and a lot of which involved inaction. Ministers were unable to answer questions on what is being done to solve skills shortages. We heard Dorothy Dixers from government members including answers that we had already received to questions on notice. The Treasurer received many Dorothy Dixers about what Treasury is delivering for Queenslanders in particular electorates. I also asked the Treasurer what the Sandgate electorate is getting. To my disappointment, all I received was a link. I did not receive a 10-minute answer such as government members received, so I put it on the record that Sandgate missed out.

When it comes to TAFE, the government's priorities are made clear by the minister's refusal to meet with Queensland Teachers' Union representatives, instead deflecting to the education minister and ignoring the thousands of TAFE teachers and the QTU who deserve better pay, answers and at least a meeting with the minister. It is hard to imagine this government taking a genuine approach to improving TAFE when they replaced multiple board members, months ahead of their term completions, with loyal LNP donors. When asked about free TAFE, the minister dodged and ducked, referring only to the federal government funding that was being delivered. The federal government's free TAFE funding is not enough to cover the existing program without support from the state government. Right now, Queensland needs more nurses, more teachers and more tradies. We cannot afford to take opportunities from people who want to be in those industries.

The Crisafulli government committed to making home ownership a possibility for every Queenslanders, but their work proves how out of touch they are when it comes to taking down barriers and allowing people to enter home ownership. They are people like Leah, from Bracken Ridge in my electorate. Leah is a single mother who escaped domestic violence and is now trapped in the rental market because she co-owned property with her ex-partner and is ineligible for any of the government's assistance programs. She is not a first home buyer. She is one of many single parents facing that reality across Queensland. When we tried to ask the minister responsible about the initiative designed to boost home ownership, he deflected to the housing minister. Their rent-a-room scheme is not even collecting

data. He did not answer any questions on how it will be delivered and how its effectiveness is going to be measured. We can only wonder whether it is a matter of incompetence or intentional oversight when it comes to this issue.

When it comes to investing in our futures, the Crisafulli government is failing to do what matters most. In what seemed to be a trend during estimates, the Minister for Energy continued to deflect questions on renewable energy, saying that we should ask questions of the environment minister, who deflected them right back to him. My question to the government is: if it is not the energy minister and it is not the environment minister, who is responsible for renewable energy in Queensland? Before the election, the LNP committed to upholding Labor's emissions target for a 75 per cent reduction by 2032. This is now another broken election promise. We know they do not care about renewable energy because, on the weekend at the LNP convention, they voted to abandon net zero policy targets. They did that because they are completely out of touch.

This budget's process was supposed to be different. It was supposed to embark on a journey of transparency and accountability but, unfortunately, that is not what Queenslanders saw. Queenslanders deserve a government that keeps its promises and embraces transparency. They were promised a fresh start, but all they have is a backward government that does not care for their future.