




Speech By
Christopher Whiting

MEMBER FOR BANCROFT

Record of Proceedings, 26 August 2025

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

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (12.44 pm): It is a pleasure to rise in this debate. The Premier talked about what they are doing on cost of living. One thing the current government is not doing is giving a discount on car rego that was enjoyed by so many Queenslanders. Getting rid of that represents an increase in car rego of 24 per cent for many Queensland families. They are also not delivering that highly valued electricity rebate. We brought in that electricity rebate when we were in government and so many struggling working Queensland families said, 'Thank you. You saved us from this, that or the other.' What we gave back to ordinary working Queensland families from the assets they owned was hugely appreciated. The answer to the question of what they are doing about cost of living is 'not that much'.

What we did learn from this first estimates by the LNP government is that they have not kept their word and they cannot keep their promises. Firstly, they promised to keep Queenslanders safer. Queenslanders I talk to do not feel the LNP is making them safer. They do feel that the LNP is massaging crime statistics. We heard the LNP say before the election that they would fix what they called a youth crime crisis. They did not tell us that they would cherry-pick the data after the election. We heard in estimates about their handling of the victims of crime statistics. What we did learn through the estimates is that the tradie who has his tools stolen from a ute is not counted as a victim of crime. The LNP promised to drive down the number of victims of crime—I heard a minister say that this morning—but it is clear that they want to do that by massaging the data. They will literally reduce the numbers of victims of crime but not the actual number of Queenslanders who have been victims.

Secondly, before the election the Premier stated that he would deliver top-class health services where people live. What he did not say was that the LNP would spend more on advertising their hospital construction plan than on a campaign to encourage Queenslanders to get flu vaccinations. Thirdly, the Premier promised that his ministers would be held accountable: if they did not do their job, off they would go. What we saw in estimates was an extraordinary effort to protect those poorly performing LNP ministers. As the *Courier-Mail* reported, the member for Moggill ran a heavy protection cordon around ministers—leaping in to stop proceedings when the questioning got a little too hot for the government.

The efforts to protect the member for Mudgeeraba were badly needed. Have we ever seen a worse performance in estimates? In estimates we heard about a disaster where there were two explosions. We are not talking about the Callide Power Station; we are talking about the member for Mudgeeraba's ministerial career—two explosions, or two implosions. She has been her own documented disaster. Let me give members an illustration of how poorly the minister performed in estimates. There were 10 questions to the minister from us. One was put to the minister four times. The minister was protected by 14 points of order—five on one question. The minister drew seven points of order from us on relevance. Not one of those 10 questions was adequately answered by the minister.

The minister could not even answer a question about who was messaging her about Callide, even though we had obtained those messages through freedom of information. Incidentally, the minister

said that she got a message from a member of the public about Callide. Can I ask which members of the public around that area have the minister's mobile number? The minister could not even handle questions from her own people. There were 20 government questions in finance, trade and training. Nine went to the minister; 11 went to directors-general and CEOs. The minister got less than half the Dixer's. They could not even trust her to answer the Dixer's. In conclusion, the LNP said that this process was an opportunity for them to deliver on their promises. They have not delivered on their promise for a fresh start.