




Speech By  
**Christopher Whiting**

**MEMBER FOR BANCROFT**

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

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (11.59 am): It is an honour to rise as the first non-government speaker to talk about the estimates process. Reflecting on what the member for Coomera said about the process of estimates, what we did learn from the estimates process as structured by the LNP was that they have not kept their word and they cannot keep their promises. Firstly, they have broken their word to treat parliament with respect. The now Premier said in 2021 that ‘ministers must answer questions otherwise it is a sham’, yet we have discovered through the estimates process that LNP ministers routinely do not answer questions on notice within 30 days. More than that, they guillotine debates, after crying out when in opposition against guillotining debates. We have seen that they have cut short or guillotined debates on 11 bills. They say one thing before the election and do another afterwards.

Another one of their promises about treating parliament with respect was to reform estimates. What did we see this year? We saw another broken promise where time was being wasted through frivolous points of order and time chewed up with the most benign of Dorothy Dixers from government members, and I have to say the questions from the government backbenchers were the most performative, I think, of the whole process as they demonstrated their obedience to their political masters in the chamber.

I have to say, the protection cordon around ministers run by the LNP in this estimates process was truly extraordinary. We will hear more on this, but our analysis shows there were 504 points of order by government members, with 26 per cent from the Leader of the House and 25 per cent from LNP chairs. I know other members will talk more on this, but can I say that I feel sorry for the LNP chairs. They get into government and they think, ‘This is my role. I am going to run estimates. I am going to have something to do.’ However, what they find out is, ‘No, your role is now just to be an interjector, to raise points of order.’ Even so, they were not the chief interjector or raiser of points of order; it turned out to be that it is a minister of the House. So, I do feel for the LNP members of the committees; they have much less to do than we did when we were in government.

It was an extraordinary effort, as I said, to protect the poorly performing LNP ministers. As the *Courier-Mail* said, the member for Moggill ran ‘a heavy protection cordon around ministers, leaping to stop proceedings when questioning got a little too hot for the government’. This is after the member for Moggill last year, when talking about estimates, interjected that it was a protection racket. If that is the case, then he has become the chief racketeer in this government—wasting time making numerous frivolous points of order, all to protect underperforming ministers. It is clear to many Queenslanders that this LNP Crisafulli government is not keeping their word to respect parliament.

There is one thing that we did discover in estimates and that was the LNP’s sense of entitlement when it comes to aircraft. I will not talk about the latest episode in the aviation drama where the member for Cook has made helicopters his preferred mode of transport for short journeys or his commandeering of landing strips that belong to other people—I will not talk about that—but I will talk about the \$13,842

it cost the parliament for one flight where the member for Mirani managed to redirect the flight northwards to look at more wind farms, seated where he is most comfortable—in the co-pilot seat. There he is, looking forward—the Biggles of the bush. Don't worry, everyone!

Estimates and recent behaviour—and behaviour that we are witnessing right now—shows that we are dealing with the same old LNP: entitled, self-protecting and cannot keep their promises or their word. In conclusion, the estimates process was an opportunity for the Crisafulli LNP government to deliver on their promises to reform, to do better, for a fresh start. Instead, it is the same old LNP, breaking their word and delivering for themselves.