




Speech By
Hon. David Crisafulli
MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

Record of Proceedings, 26 August 2025

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

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (12.38 pm): My contribution to the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee report will be focused on the structural reform and the fresh start that was given as part of that. Nobody summed it up better than the Leader of the House, who describes it as stronger, fairer, more accountable. I think that is an excellent contribution, and it was all of those things.

I want to start by placing on record my appreciation for the role of the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker. They certainly sat in that chamber for many hours. In fact, there was only one individual who spent more time in the chamber than the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker. I know how modest Dr Rowan is, so I will not praise him. Suffice it to say, it was an excellent effort from him in staying there throughout the hearings over long periods of time, and I do thank him for the structure that he provided.

I was able earlier today, in my contribution in this place, to talk a little bit about some of the other reforms. I will touch on it again, because it is important that I place it on record in this forum as well. The additional day, as well as the additional hours and the ability for the 50-50 split—in fact, there was more time afforded to the opposition than the government—sends a signal that the estimates process matters. It is ideal that I follow the member for Coomera, because his contribution to this debate shows how seriously he took the estimates process. He used it as a vehicle to push and probe and get answers for his constituency. I think that is an important part of the democratic process.

Estimates needs to be a vehicle for two things. The opposition needs to use the opportunity to hold the executive accountable—some would argue there was not a lot of preparation for some of the sections, but the opposition and the crossbench need to do that. Likewise, government members also need to use the opportunity to drill down into specific things for their electorate. I have to say, across the board, the way that members of the government used that is good for their electorates, and it is also good for ministers to be tested on their portfolio about individual elements that relate to different parts of this great state. I thought that was very well done.

The budget does what we said we would do. The first budget has been well received across the state. The opposition barely used the first question time after the budget to try to poke holes in the budget, because universally it has been well received as a budget that does what we said we were going to do. That is what good governments do. In many cases, the estimates process should be the opportunity to scrutinise the expenditure of the executive. I believe that we have a Treasurer who does respect people's money. That is important. Taxpayers work hard. They make a contribution and they need to know that a government will respect their money at all times.

We spoke about easier access to health services. We spoke about housing. We spoke about the youth crime crisis. We spoke about some of the cost-of-living initiatives that we have implemented. It is important that I speak about that, because cost of living remains front and centre in the minds of Queenslanders. What are we doing about it? Every decision we take as a government is about how we can lower those structural costs and help people in the decisions that government takes to ensure their

money is respected. We have the \$100 Back to School Boost, which enables a connection between student and school. We have \$200 sports Play On! vouchers, which were not funded beyond the forwards. They are now locked in at record levels, with record amounts for the regions and the ability for those with disability to tap into it. There are the free kindy health checks and indexed electricity rebates for vulnerable families. We axed the patient tax, we removed stamp duty on all new builds for first home owners, there is the \$20 million Returning to Work support for women re-entering the workforce, and there is a program that was never funded beyond the forwards—that is, 50-cent fares. On coming to office we decided to make a long-term decision to make them permanent and lock them in.

Finally, I want to place on record my deep thanks to everyone involved in the process: the parliamentary staff and not only the members of parliament but also the departmental staff. A lot of work goes into estimates from directors-general and public servants right throughout the process. Even if there are certain questions that may not be answered, the process of going through and doing that makes us a better government.