




Speech By
David Kempton

MEMBER FOR COOK

Record of Proceedings, 26 August 2025

**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL; STATE
DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE AND WORKS COMMITTEE, REPORT**

 **Mr KEMPTON** (Cook—LNP) (4.27 pm): As a member of the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee, I had the pleasure of participating in the recent budget estimates hearing in relation to the Appropriation Bill 2025—the best budget Queenslanders have seen in a decade from the best Treasurer we have seen in a long time. Our committee, so ably chaired by Jim McDonald, was the A-team. In saying that I mean no disrespect to all of the other hardworking committees, however, we did have a stellar line-up: the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and Minister for Industrial Relations; the Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth; the Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games; and the Minister for Transport and Main Roads.

With the opposition wheeling out its big guns in the form of shadow minister after shadow minister, I expected there would be quite a showing. Alas, that was not to be. As clearly enunciated in its statement of reservation, the opposition attack was based on petty nitpicking, rehashing old news and attacking the reputations of people who have devoted their working lives to this great state. Labor's effort was shambolic at best.

Mr Power: Can't hear you over the chopper.

Mr KEMPTON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at those remarks and ask that they be withdrawn. They contain imputations as to my credibility and I ask that the member withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): I will take some advice on that. The member has taken personal offence. Member for Logan, will you withdraw?

Mr POWER: I would. I would also like to clarify that I made no imputation on the member.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member—

Mr POWER: There were two allegations made. I made no imputation on the member whatsoever.

Mr KEMPTON: Point of order—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, I did not hear. Did you withdraw?

Mr POWER: I withdraw.

Mr KEMPTON: And the member for Cairns as well, please, Deputy Speaker. I understand he made the same comment. I certainly heard it from two people, not just one.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I did not hear the member make any statement.

Mr KEMPTON: Instead of a coherent, strategic and meaningful response to the bill, the Labor opposition by its lacklustre performance simply reaffirmed to Queenslanders that, after 10 years of decline by an inept Labor government, Queenslanders are now seeing a Crisafulli LNP government that

after just six months is focusing on delivery, delivery, delivery. Our committee recommends that the proposed expenditure as detailed in the Appropriation Bill 2025 for the committee's area of responsibility be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly without amendment.

Testament to the submissions of each of the ministers and their directors-general of the enormous task they have taken on and the success of this government, the committee heard of not only election promises being funded in the budget but also the foundations for the future of our great state being meticulously delivered. The LNP Crisafulli government went to the election promising to reduce numbers of victims of crime, arrest the housing crisis and address the hospital crisis and the cost-of-living crisis. Every one of its promises has been or is in the process of being delivered. There is that word again: delivery. When the governance of our great state is left in a state of decline year after year, year in and year out, by an inept government, there is little wonder that Labor left the state in a state of crisis.

For my electorate of Cook, the cost-of-living crisis, the housing crisis, the lack of medical services and crime are not new concepts and were exacerbated over a decade by neglect and decline by a Labor government which was more interested in token gestures and was represented by members who were missing in action for the whole decade. By comparison, the Crisafulli government has in just 10 months delivered on its promise to provide world-class health services and housing solutions and address crime and many other important issues facing my vast electorate. Shining examples of delivery in Cook are the Residential Activation Fund, which is unlocking hundreds of housing blocks across my electorate, the provision of water facility upgrades to remote Indigenous communities and the Barron River bridge, to name a few. Remote and regional Queensland is a priority of Premier David Crisafulli and our government.

Apart from an election, there can be no greater opportunity for an opposition to test the performance of a government than the budget estimates hearings. Notwithstanding the appointment of independent chairs, more question time, the standing orders and the ability to replace sitting committee members with seasoned shadow ministers, the Labor Party failed to prosecute its case in this important component of the democratic process. It failed to land a blow. I am proud to be a part of this government that is delivering after a decade of decline. I commend this report to the House.