




Speech By  
**Jonty Bush**

**MEMBER FOR COOPER**

---

Record of Proceedings, 26 August 2025

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

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (3.52 pm): After hearing for the past four years how when in government those opposite would reform the estimates process and make it more transparent and less politicised, I was disappointed that they did not take the opportunity to do any of that. They could have done away with dixers, put time limits on responses or given more time to those of us in the opposition, but there was nothing. Queenslanders must think this is a bit of a joke. In fact, with so much volleying between members of the government trying to get points of order up and gag us, it felt like a political game or a sport. In the spirit of the game today, I thought I might give out some excellence awards. Sadly, not everyone can get a prize.

I will start off with the participation award. Let's be honest: every parent knows that this is the award you get for showing up and having a crack. The participation award for estimates goes to the Leader of the House, the member for Moggill, who showed up to every single estimates hearing. Some are saying it is because the leadership team did not trust their own people, their own committee members, but I will not let that rain on the member for Moggill's parade. He turned up and ran interference for the government, calling points of order even when there were none. He had a decent crack. Well done to the member for Moggill.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Whiting): Member for Cooper, are you going to table these?

**Ms BUSH:** I will table these at the end, if that helps. I have a few here. Next we have the most improved player. This goes to the Minister for Sport, the member for Everton, who, after making some egregious comments in this House about women in leadership, managed to name—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Cooper, I warn you against using those as a prop.

**Ms BUSH:** Sorry. I will hold it up and then put it down. After making some egregious comments about women in leadership in parliament, he has managed to name a whole six women with whom he met in developing the Queensland Sport Strategy. The next thing we know he will be appointing a woman to a board. It is really terrific to hear that coming from the member for Everton.

Then we have the best offensive player, and that goes to the Deputy Premier. One might think it is because he turned everything into an attack on Labor, temporarily forgetting that we are not the ones in government. The Deputy Premier receives the 'most offensive' award because he has absolutely sold Queensland women out. When we confronted the Deputy Premier with evidence that WorkCover board member Greg Hallam—a man the Deputy Premier had hand-picked and installed into that role without a merit process—had made disturbing social media posts where he discussed women in 'slutty nurse' outfits and how women were nags, the Deputy Premier failed to condemn—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Cooper, can you withdraw that unparliamentary language?

**Ms BUSH:** Sorry; I withdraw. The Deputy Premier failed to condemn those comments then and he has failed to act since. Greg Hallam remains the deputy chair of the WorkCover board. That failure of leadership is why the Deputy Premier has earned the most offensive player award for estimates.

The next award is our top scorer, and it goes to the person who has absolutely hit the jackpot and scored big-time. The winner of this award has been described as many things—a failed Brisbane City councillor and the failed federal member for Ryan—but now we know him as the CEO of Economic Development Queensland. It is none other than Julian Simmonds. One day after the Premier said that he did not believe in career politicians being appointed to top jobs in the public sector we learned that Simmonds, whose entire career has been constrained to political appointments and election defeats, has walked straight into a \$312,000 role—and this is the kicker—with no merit process. That takes a special kind of talent. Well done to Mr Simmonds for being our top scorer.

The most defensive player goes to the Minister for Youth, the member for Bonney, who expertly defended his way out of any responsibility in that portfolio: cost of living, does not really impact young people; safety at work, it is irrelevant; and housing, definitely not something that young people care about. Well done to the Minister for Youth on his defensive techniques.

I thought the MVP award had to go to the Deputy Premier, who certainly remains our most valuable player on the government's benches. The Premier continues to remind his team to not fixate on ideology and culture wars, but the Deputy Premier valiantly trudges on. The Deputy Premier is our MVP on the government benches.

I thank our refs and the ball boys and girls—the Speaker and Deputy Speaker, Hansard and our parliamentary secretaries—who have done a great job. I thank all of the public sector employees who are the real athletes of estimates. The institution of estimates is perhaps the greatest opportunity that we have, particularly in a unicameral parliament, to scrutinise the government's spending, and it is regrettable that the government this year did not keep to their promise to improve the process. I do hope they consider how they could reform the estimates process next year and improve the experience for the whole of Queensland.