



Speech By  
**Lance McCallum**

**MEMBER FOR BUNDAMBA**


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Record of Proceedings, 26 August 2025

**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL**

**Governance, Energy and Finance Committee, Report**

Resumed from p. 2384.

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (3.02 pm): It is a pleasure to contribute to the debate on these committee reports and boy, wasn't the estimates process a rough ride for the Crisafulli government and its cabinet. Things went from bad to worse at a rate of absolute knots. This was never more prevalent than in the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee. Let us start with the Premier and the estimates process itself. When he was the opposition leader, the Premier was proudly out there giving a commitment to Queenslanders on how he would reform the estimates process. Then, he gets the trust of Queenslanders—fast forward to the very first estimates process under the Crisafulli government and what happened to the promises he made as opposition leader about reforming the process? He absolutely ditched them.

**Mr de Brenni** interjected.

**Mr McCALLUM:** I take the interjection from the Manager of the Opposition Business. The member for Broadwater promised when he was in opposition to increase the available time to examine expenditure and to commit to an opposition or crossbench member chairing the committees to help ensure a fairer go. You cannot really move much further away because not only were the government chairs not able to chair their own committees, they were sidelined by their own government. It was extraordinary. Limiting the opportunity for Dorothy Dixers was another commitment that was given by the Premier and, of course, that was absolutely ignored. There were more dixers than ever. There were dixers going from government MPs to witnesses, CEOs and director-generals—bypassing the ministers. Not even the ministers were getting the dixer questions. It was extraordinary stuff—extraordinary. We saw ministers who were running down the clock waffling and clearly not across their portfolio.

Let us turn to the portfolio of energy and the part of the committee that examines energy and the Minister for Energy. We have seen the Callide cover-up continue and deepen under the Crisafulli government. We saw a bombshell of RTI documents that revealed clear communication between sitting shareholder ministers from the board of CS Energy. We saw ministers not acknowledge the existence of those text messages. It was absolutely extraordinary to have the energy minister basically denying knowledge of the RTIs that were tabled during the estimates process and refusing to answer and acknowledge questions that went to the very heart of accountability and transparency that this government promised Queenslanders. They were simply trying to avoid any real accountability by saying: look, it is not really my job, I will just leave that to the RTI officer. Then, there were more documents tabled when a question was asked to the Premier's office about briefings that the Premier might have received about the Callide explosion. Despite the energy minister saying that between the explosion and the date of the documents that were requested under the RTI—which was two weeks—he had briefed the Premier repeatedly, no documents were magically released by the Premier's office.

What was very clear during this estimates process is there are ministers who are very much out of their depth and the government is focused on itself and not focused on delivering for Queensland. We have seen rebates cut and people are paying over \$1,000 more and, frankly, it is no wonder the latest polling has seen their primary vote tank 10 points.