



Speech By
Mark Boothman

MEMBER FOR THEODORE

Record of Proceedings, 27 August 2025

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation Bill

Local Government, Small Business and Customer Service Committee, Report

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (7.40 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Local Government, Small Business and Customer Service Committee's report on the Appropriation Bill. Before I start, I would like to pass on my sincere condolences to the families and friends of the two Victorian police officers who were slain as they were going about their duties, keeping our community safe. It is terrible and horrendous news.

With regard to the estimates process, I wish to thank the committee members, the ministerial and departmental staff and the ministers, who gave very informative responses to the questions asked. I wish to thank the Speaker and Deputy Speaker for their unbiased approach to managing this year's estimates hearings. This year's estimates process was adjudicated with the highest level of impartiality, reinforcing the decision by the Premier to revolutionise estimates by creating an open and transparent process.

As the last government speaker to this report, I would like to remind those opposite of the ratio of time allocated to both government and non-government members to ask questions. Non-government members received 2,207 minutes, while government members received 1,488 minutes—about a 60-40 split. This year's estimates process was held over nine days, compared to the estimates hearings in 2024 which were held over eight days. In 2023 and 2022 they were held over seven days. That shows just how willing, open and transparent the Crisafulli government is.

During the hearing process there were some interesting questions asked by those opposite. Some contained imputations while others were argumentative or hypothetical. I do remember a hypothetical question asked of the acting director-general of the department of local government. I know that the director-general is a very talented individual, but he certainly is not Nostradamus.

During this process we learned how focused the Crisafulli LNP government is on small businesses under the stewardship of the member for Chatsworth. As someone who comes from a small business background, he is very interested in and has a real passion for small business.

To highlight the importance of the 495,000 small businesses in Queensland, this year's budget allocates \$130 million of new funding for small businesses as part of the Small and Family Business First Action Statement. These funds include: \$40 million for the Secure Communities Partnerships Program to implement crime prevention measures and improve community safety for small businesses;

\$19 million for an apprenticeship support program; \$16.8 million to extend the small business support network; and, of equal importance, a refocus by the Small Business Commissioner on reducing red tape, which is very important when it comes to dealing with cybersecurity and the advancement of AI. It is very important that we embrace AI. That was something the minister was very clear on. Also during this process we found that cybersecurity is becoming a huge issue. Recently some figures came out for the 2023-24 financial year that 36,700 calls—

(Time expired)