



Speech By  
**Michael Crandon**

**MEMBER FOR COOMERA**

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Record of Proceedings, 26 August 2025

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


**Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)**

**Appropriation (Parliament) Bill**

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

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): The House will consider the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill first. The question is—

That the report of the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee be adopted.

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (11.54 am): I rise to address report No. 11 of the Governance, Energy and Finance Committee—the committee that I proudly chair in this House—on the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2025 and the budget estimates program. For the last 10 years the budget estimates process has been a cornerstone of our democracy in Queensland. For years it has been an opportunity for elected members of parliament, in particular non-government members of parliament, to ask questions of ministers and senior public servants to hold the elected government to account. I could not agree more with that statement. I am absolutely certain that is what it was all about and meant to be. It did not quite work like that over the last decade; nevertheless, that is what it was meant to be.

I took the opportunity to have a look at Mr Speaker's response to a question on notice that he provided on 31 July 2025. The response related to the amount of time allocated for the estimates process this term as opposed to in previous years. It is interesting that, yes, he confirmed that in 2025 we had proposed 70.25 hours of time. I believe in the fullness of time we will receive something from the parliament to advise us that it was longer than that 70.25 hours. It was 66.25 hours last year, so that is a six per cent increase.

Let us look at what happened in the years leading up to 2024. I will not bore members with all of the details, but on average the amount of time that was provided was 55 hours—as opposed to 70.25 hours. Indeed, for almost all of those earlier years there were seven days of hearings while there were nine days of hearings this year. That is a very big difference—55 hours compared to 70 hours. That is an increase in time of 15 hours, or 27 per cent. That is an extra opportunity for members on the opposition benches to ask questions of the government. Let us look at the whole 10 years when we talk about these things. Over that period, as I said, the average was about 55 hours.

I am comfortable with the way we have taken things. I am comfortable with the fact that we have taken the total hearing time to over 70 hours. As the Premier said, it was successful. We will see more of it and we will see it again next year. Indeed, if those opposite do the right thing by the crossbench, they will give crossbench members more time to ask questions and not leave them to ask their questions at the end of the sessions. That puts that claim to bed.

It was very clear to me in the estimates process for the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill that we received some good information from the Clerk and the Speaker. I want to commend the Parliamentary Service for the ongoing upgrade to the precinct—a place that all Queenslanders can attend, if they so choose, and be proud of. During the estimates process, when I was walking with the Clerk along the verandah and talking about the work that has been going on and continues to go on, he made the very valid point that we will not recognise the precinct in the next term of parliament and the positivity that will come from all of the investment that is being made between now and 2028. I commend the report to the House.