




Speech By
Natalie Marr

MEMBER FOR THURINGOWA

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**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL; JUSTICE,
INTEGRITY AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE, REPORT**

 **Ms MARR** (Thuringowa—LNP) (6.28 pm): I rise today to speak on the Appropriation Bill committee estimates for the Justice, Integrity and Community Safety Committee. I do so with a sense of both opportunity and frustration. When I prepared for the estimates hearing, I was genuinely excited. I anticipated robust, engaging and community focused discussion—a chance to dive deep into the priorities and needs of Queenslanders. Our government, after just 10 months in office, is committed to being accountable, transparent and responsive to every Queenslanders.

We came ready to listen and to deliver, but what we encountered was nothing short of lacklustre. The Labor opposition's performance during these hearings was, frankly, disappointing. After a decade of decline and letting Queenslanders down—with 10 years of missed opportunities, stagnant progress and unfulfilled promises—their approach to these hearings showed no energy, no vision and no accountability. It was a stark reminder of why Queenslanders turned away from them. After 10 years of decline by the Labor government, the LNP Crisafulli government has had 10 months of delivery.

The former Labor government continued to tell my community that we did not have a crime problem. They hid from the realities of the siege of crime my community were enduring, so it was no surprise that I heard questions about safety cones and flights made to cover regional Queensland—not to deliver birthday cakes or with two jets flying almost side by side, but to listen and support regional Queenslanders.

Sitting suspended from 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm.

 **Ms MARR:** I am certain that these are not the questions that Queenslanders wanted to hear from Labor. My community tell me they are happy to have a Premier who does not just talk about regional Queensland but one who visits them and one who delivers for North Queensland. I am certain that the community would have expected so much more from the opposition, but then again, after 10 years of inaction, maybe not. Let's face it, this is why Queenslanders in my community voted for a fresh start for Queensland.

Let me reflect on what my community would like to have heard. Youth Justice has an investment of \$35 million towards rehabilitation programs and an additional \$215 million to deliver early intervention, community-led initiatives with a focus on reducing crime. For the Queensland Police Service there is \$226 million to implement Making Queensland Safer Laws, \$52.5 million to reduce the DNA backlog and \$25 million for delivery of an electronic monitoring pilot of high-risk domestic and family violence offenders. I have touched on only a few examples. There are countless more, far beyond what I can address in this brief speech, yet these are the priorities our community would like to hear—what matters to them—not the agenda of a defeated Labor government who want to hide from their record.

In reading the Labor government's statement of reservation, I was again not surprised by the lacklustre response, once again ignoring the real issues. In the statement of reservation they continue

to make the statement, and again today in parliament, that the LNP have handed in their homework. What nonsense! To the members over there, this is a classic case of, 'Teacher, the dog ate my homework,' because Labor did not deliver.

We have been working tirelessly to address the challenges left behind, to rebuild trust and to drive meaningful outcomes for our communities. We will continue to reflect our commitment to responsible governance and real progress for Queenslanders. While Labor lingers in the past, we are focused on the future—a future where accountability and action define us. We will listen to our community, we will respect their money, we will put victims first and we will continue to be tough on crime.

Before I conclude, I want to express my gratitude to the parliamentary staff for their tireless dedication, professionalism and hard work throughout this process. Their commitment ensures our democracy thrives, and I deeply appreciate their efforts. On that note, I welcome a continued fresh start for Queensland.