



Speech By  
**Nikki Boyd**

**MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS**

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Record of Proceedings, 27 August 2025

## **APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL**

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#### **Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)**

#### **Appropriation Bill**

#### **Local Government, Small Business and Customer Service Committee, Report**

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (5.04 pm): The LNP government promised us an estimates reform process and, straight out of the gate, all of those elements that were promised were instantly broken, and that is entirely true to form. The government's tactic of interjections was so bad, often with multiple points of order from government MPs on the same matter—sometimes multiple interjections from the same MP on the same matter. In four hours of questioning time, we saw 29 minutes lost over the estimates timing purely through interjections. In a one-hour block on disaster recovery and volunteers, government members made 21 interjections.

Here are some of the things that we learned through the estimates process. We learned that there is no commitment in the forwards for a second fire station in Bundaberg, despite the land being purchased and it now being unencumbered. Not only are the Fire Department now mandated to have political branding right through their department, the minister's office—her chief of staff, in fact—was directly interfering with the department's longstanding policy and procedures—respectful policies and procedures that public servants had in place. Through that interference, they removed recognition of our First Nations people from a plaque at the Drayton Fire and Rescue Station.

In one of the strangest birthday presents I have ever seen, the minister's chief of staff provided the minister with the wrong response in order to answer the question, and she preceded at length to inform the committee about the politically charged style guide changes—until it was pointed out, after a prolonged period of time, that she was entirely lost. It gets worse. There was an Aboriginal elder engaged for that opening and, as a result of this email exchange with the minister's office, that elder's attendance and their respectful acknowledgement needed to be cancelled. This was news to the minister's office, apparently, despite evidence tabled in this place that highlights that it was at their own hand.

We learned that the minister could not recall if she had ever met Kristen Hilton, who is overseeing cultural reform work at QFD. This is important work that will fundamentally improve the culture and make sure there is a fit-for-purpose complaints management system. Never in the eight months of her ministerial leadership has the minister even bothered to reach out and meet with Ms Hilton. This is a role designed to make sure that there is adequate protection for victims and that perpetrators are held to account. The minister has squandered any opportunity to play a role in creating a better workplace for many thousands of heroes on our front line.

We learned that 30 per cent of the station officer roles—leaders in our local fire and rescue stations right throughout our communities—are currently unfilled. I am so pleased to hear today that the member for Southern Downs has finally found his voice again on Emu Swamp Dam—something that he has been considerably quiet on and something on which I still see no funding whatsoever or commitment from this government.

Despite being told by the Minister for Trade that the 'jobs for mates' era was over, we saw them shell out for mates in disaster recovery and even the previous member for Gregory, Lachlan Millar, where we learned that this minister had no intention of fulfilling a dying friend's wishes. If you ever needed any more evidence that the member for Warrego's words are hollow, look no further than her response. It was on full display for all to see. Spoiler alert: it is still unclear how she handled that conflict, because the member for Warrego's performance in estimates was anything but clear.

We saw the political protection racket for National Party Senate candidate Andrew Cripps continue. Time after time we saw that the minister was obstructionist, argumentative and cagey in her responses. She refused to rule out whether she wanted the inquiry into volunteering in Queensland to deliver three to four recommendations with no cost to government—something she has personally already told the sector. Whoopsadaisy! We also learned that the EVAC continues to be in the freezer, with the minister insisting that it was not her responsibility but still insisting that she answers the questions on those things. The Minister for Emergency Services said it was with her. Who is misleading the House?

Despite talking a big game while sitting in Western Queensland about overinflated insurance premiums and carbon capturing—protecting the GAB—when this minister comes into this place there is no protection at all; she does not stand up for these matters. It would seem that she does not care. She passes the buck and she obfuscates at every single opportunity. We absolutely saw that with Troy Thompson when she refused to even come back with information despite promising to do so. Then she said at the end of the session, 'I never said I was going to do that.' What a joke!