



Speech By
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MEMBER FOR KURWONGBAH

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**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL; STATE
DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE AND WORKS COMMITTEE, REPORT**

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (4.02 pm): I rise to contribute to this debate as a member of the State Development, Infrastructure and Works Committee. Firstly, I thank all the parliamentary and departmental staff who facilitated this year's estimates process. As a former committee chair, I know there is a huge amount of work that goes into it. Our committee examines the portfolios of four different ministers and our hearing ran over 1½ days this year. It is a lot to pull together logistically, so thanks to all those involved, including the committee members.

As a former committee chair, there are a couple of comments I want to make about how estimates ran this year—our first Crisafulli LNP government estimates experience. It is unsurprising to me that lines of questioning throughout the estimates process were repeatedly shut down or complicated, with regular guest appearances from argumentative non-committee members. The LNP government's call to have the Speaker or Deputy Speaker chair each proceeding speaks volumes about the low trust level the Premier and Deputy Premier must have in their own appointed committee chairs. That is not the feeling I share, committee chair.

Instead of robust and transparent questions and answers, we had constant and distracting points of order, constant challenging of relevance and deflecting and avoidance from ministers. The member for Moggill, the Leader of the House, seemed to have no purpose for attending our hearings except to block questions. He used the term 'point of order' 42 times by my count. Not to be outdone, the chair of the committee, the member for Lockyer, who was not allowed to chair the process, used the term 'point of order' 53 times. This is ridiculous and must have been frustrating to the Speaker, who was expertly trying to guide proceedings. The Speaker did a really good job. I think next year the full panel of temporary speakers should be given this task to give those two a break. It was a champion effort.

We did get some answers though. Here are some of the things we discovered. The LNP will not be following through on Labor's Queensland Battery Industry Strategy, despite confirmation from the director-general that research indicated that it could generate up to \$1.3 billion in economic activity and create over 9,000 jobs.

The LNP throws the pub test out the window when it comes to appointing LNP mates to plum jobs and respecting council decisions on development applications for their LNP political donors. What happened to the LNP government's 'the jobs for mates days are over' quote?

Director-General Sosso believes only Nostradamus can predict when the first new homes will be delivered under the Residential Activation Fund so loudly touted by this government. There appeared to be differing interpretations of who is eligible for temporary refuge accommodation under the Immediate Housing Response guidelines.

The LNP's Games On! funding seems to be mostly a front for funding LNP election commitments. There is no clear criteria established for further funding rounds either.

For Sunshine Coast commuters we discovered that buses would replace trains for part of the long-awaited Sunshine Coast rail expansion. In Brisbane they say that no state funding is forthcoming for the Story Bridge restoration. The Queensland Train Manufacturing Program will be at least a year behind schedule and the jury is out on any ongoing commitment to the Zero Emission Bus Program targets.

The government does not want Queenslanders to see its advice on the dredging of Pumicestone Passage. This issue has been raised with me as a pointless waste of money by constituents who frequent Bribie for recreational activities. The Deputy Premier's bold 'dredge baby dredge' statement should be backed up with strong evidence from the department showing this is the way to go, but that evidence is hidden and cannot be shown.

There was one bit of good news for my community though, with the director-general of the Department of Transport and Main Roads confirming she is doubling the already secured allocation of \$6 million for my park-and-ride commitment at Narangba railway station to \$12 million. That presumably might explain the delay in the department finalising the design—because it will have to be a bigger one now; yeah!—for this project which has apparently been ongoing for years. I look forward to news of a sod turning in coming months.

The fresh start for Queensland promised pre-election by the LNP certainly was not evident in the recent estimates process. Once again, we saw evidence the LNP says one thing in opposition and does another in government. A truly transparent and accountable government does not need to muddy the waters with points of order and controlled narratives. It leads me to ask: what do they not want Queenslanders to know?