




Speech By
Hon. Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

Record of Proceedings, 26 August 2025

**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL;
GOVERNANCE, ENERGY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE, REPORT**

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (3.23 pm): This year's estimates hearings showed Queenslanders exactly what kind of government they are dealing with—a government that, on my committee, heard from two ministers responsible for the state's finances who spent more time dodging questions than delivering any answers. Let us start with the Treasurer. We spent considerable time questioning him on the addition of \$23 billion in operating expenses in MYFER when no-one has been able to explain what it was for, and then after questioning the Under Treasurer it was revealed that the \$23 billion was simply a rushed estimate. Rushed? MYFER was a month late and they still monumentally stuffed it and, in the process, stuffed the economy. Members might remember that in January this year I had to tell the Treasurer to get off the beach and deliver a budget update—I table that article—but they still could not get it right.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 6 January 2025, titled 'Shannon Fentiman demands LNP release MYFER' [1107](#).

As a result of this whopping \$23 billion in additional operating expenses, ratings agencies revised from stable to negative the long-term issuer credit outlook in Queensland. Economists and the ratings agencies themselves have said that the \$23 billion in operating expenses in MYFER would seem to be a big part of the reason for the outlook downgrade, but in a remarkable turnaround come budget time that \$23 billion—that rushed estimate—was revised and improved by \$16.6 billion. They got it wrong by \$16.6 billion and in the meantime the ratings agencies downgraded the outlook and that is costing the Queensland economy every day. It was put to the Under Treasurer that this is exactly why one of the deputy under treasurers refused to sign off on MYFER and, as reported in the *Courier-Mail*—and I table this article—the Under Treasurer was 'lost for words'.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 29 July 2025, titled 'Labor claims government official refused to sign off on MYFER' [1108](#).

But it gets worse. Queenslanders are in a cost-of-living crisis, yet the Treasurer could not answer the basics. He could not tell the committee how much rego is going up for the average motorist or whether any modelling was done or why everything is going up by 3.4 per cent. The *Courier-Mail* reported the Treasurer as 'flailing' over this line of questioning, and again I table that article.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 29 July 2025, titled 'Treasurer, why are Queenslanders paying more in fees?' [1109](#).

Now let us turn to the Minister for Finance. First it was revealed by questions from the opposition that she knew of the Callide explosion within hours, and she still hid it from Queenslanders. Text messages show her office was alerted within hours of the blast, yet she dodged question after question. 'Secret texts reveal Ros Bates told of Callide blast within hours'. I table that article.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 30 July 2025, titled 'Secret texts reveal Ros Bates told of Callide blast within hours' [1110](#).

Queenslanders deserve honesty, not a minister who responds to an energy crisis with a thumbs up emoji. Then there is the issue of the conflict of interest with her assistant minister in discussions about the Destination Brisbane Consortium. Questions were asked about conflicts and management plans—things you might think the minister might know about—but, as the *Brisbane Times* reported, 'Bates repeatedly declined to directly answer whether she knew of the "huge conflict of interest"'—I table that article—but maybe that is because the minister does not actually know her portfolio or what it entails.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Brisbane Times*, dated 30 July 2025, titled 'Qld minister under "conflict management plan" over husband's Queen's Wharf role' [1111](#).

She had a dixer from the committee which asked if she could please outline her key role as finance minister, so she gets a softball dixer asking her to explain her role and then she goes on to read out—monotone voice reading from a script—'As finance minister my responsibilities include', and I table an article again from the *Courier-Mail* which outlines that the Minister for Finance was unable to say a word in the estimates hearing unless she read it from a piece of paper.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Courier-Mail*, undated, titled 'Scripted Visit' [1112](#).

One would think that she would be able to explain to a committee what her job is, but apparently that was a step too far for the Minister for Finance.

Lastly, I want to mention the performance by the member for Moggill, who spent two weeks playing wing defence for the government—stuck out on the wing but desperate to get into the circle. He had the audacity to go on social media spruiking an open and transparent estimates process. I genuinely thought it was satire, but the only joke here is the government's idea of accountability. Oh, and by the way, member for Toowoomba South, just for your information, rego is increasing on average \$88 for the average motorist—something he should know.