

Speech By

Mark Boothman

MEMBER FOR THEODORE

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APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL; LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SMALL BUSINESS AND CUSTOMER SERVICE COMMITTEE, REPORT

Mr BOOTHMAN (Theodore—LNP) (11.14 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Appropriation Bill 2026 and the Local Government, Small Business and Customer Service Committee budget estimates report. At the outset I would like to say thank you to all my fellow committee members. I also thank the ministers, ministerial staff and everybody who made it a very successful day for everybody involved. I especially thank Minister Leahy and Minister Minnikin for their fulsome answers to a wide range of questions that came from both sides of the chamber.

I give them a big shout-out for some of the projects which are underway in the Theodore electorate and also for projects that are helping my local volunteer organisations. Minister Ann Leahy came to my electorate not too long ago to hand over a fire truck, which to our local Guanaba Rural Fire Brigade is certainly very special. So that the minister understands how appreciated this vehicle is, the truck has been named 'Terry'. The local brigade named their truck 'Terry' after Terry Whitehead. Terry Whitehead is a long-serving member of the Guanaba Rural Fire Brigade. He is one of the founding members. He has been there for 30 years. He is also a recipient of the Australian Fire Service Medal. He is a fantastic individual who always rolls up his sleeves and gets amongst the crews and makes a huge difference. With all of his experience, he is a person who is truly honoured in the fire service. Therefore, it is so fitting to name that vehicle after him. Congratulations, Terry, for everything you do.

When it comes to small business, I give a big shout-out to the Minister for Small Business, Minister Minnikin. The Small Business Expo, which was held on the Gold Coast, was an outstanding success. A number of businesses were saying to me that this minister is so passionate about small businesses. He is so alive about small businesses. He was a small business owner and his passion shows no bounds.

The minister is keen on innovation. On the northern Gold Coast we do have some really innovative businesses. Acqualuma, which makes lighting for boats, is stationed on the northern Gold Coast. Enviroswim is another innovative business that makes a chlorine-free pool system that treats water differently and uses a non-chemical-based treatment which then stops irritations. I give a big shout-out to them. It shows how innovative our local businesses are on the northern Gold Coast.

I want to highlight the Secure Communities Partnership Program that the minister talked about during the estimates hearing. It is making sure our communities are safe but it is also helping businesses deal with the crime scourge that Labor left us with. Therefore, it is making a huge difference in those areas.

I give a big shout-out to the Small Business Apprenticeship Program—something I am very passionate about. It is helping small businesses to take on trade apprentices, helping with wages to offset the training and growing the pipeline of the next generation of tradies. We need tradies. We desperately need tradies to build the buildings, houses, roads—you name it—in the future. Therefore, we need to emphasise those trade skills areas.

With that, excellent answers were given by the ministers. Once again it showed the commitment of the Crisafulli government to Queensland, to ensure that Queensland's best days are certainly ahead of us.