




Speech By
Dr Christian Rowan

MEMBER FOR MOGGILL

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**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL:
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (7.42 pm): I rise to address the recent budget estimates and the Appropriation Bill 2017 and specifically the Agriculture and Environment Committee's area of responsibility in consideration of the Labor government's proposed expenditure. The first matter I wish to draw to the attention of the House is that of transparency, accountability and contemporary governance frameworks. With this year's estimates hearings being held in the period of time immediately following the Premier being forced to remove then minister Bailey, while investigations were undertaken into whether then minister Bailey had acted corruptly, it was timely for the committee to discuss the contemporary governance and accountability frameworks surrounding the operations of those departments under the direction of the Hon. Steven Miles MP and the potential misuse of private email accounts to bypass transparent and accountable processes.

Both the non-government members of the committee and I as shadow minister noted that the director-general was prepared to take on notice a request for information pertaining to this matter; namely, whether either the director-general and/or departmental officers of Environment and Heritage Protection had ever been requested to send an email to either the minister's private email address or the personal email of a ministerial staffer. The fact that the minister and the chair of the Agriculture and Environment Committee then colluded to have the question ruled out of order, despite the director-general indicating he was prepared to be open and accountable and furnish the committee with a response, demonstrated to me and the non-government members of the committee an obvious concern that the minister's public account to date about his use of private email accounts may potentially be incomplete.

Mr KELLY: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I think that is a reflection on the chair, suggesting that I 'colluded' with the minister.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Linard): Member for Moggill, the member for Greenslopes has essentially taken personal offence—

Mr KELLY: I ask that it be withdrawn.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:—and asked that it be withdrawn.

Dr ROWAN: I withdraw. The next issue I wish to bring to the attention of the House is the twisted logic that exists in the minister's mind with respect to our much maligned resources sector. It was truly amazing to hear just how it is the minister justifies coal exports in the face of Labor's long record of decrying the coal industry as the major cause of global warming. To his credit, the minister displayed some mental nimbleness and flexibility when it came to questions surrounding his support of the Adani Carmichael coalmining project.

Green voters and supporters across our state will no doubt be happy to hear that, whilst Labor fully supports the exporting of coal from Queensland to India, the minister argues resulting carbon emissions are not counted as a contribution to global warming here in Queensland; they are accounted

for in India. That is right. Coal mined in Queensland does not count here with respect to the measurement of carbon emissions. It belongs to the country in which it is sent to, according to the minister. If only the people of the minister's soon-to-be-former Mount Coot-tha electorate knew this. I am sure many green groups and supporters in the electorate of Murrumba and across Queensland will be fascinated to hear how this works according to Minister Miles.

This policy position seems to have a bizarrely twisted seam of logic to it, and the minister should be thanked for revealing how it is he justifies his support for ongoing coal exports from Queensland given his philosophical opposition to fossil fuels and his different messages and positions depending upon the relevant audience. Now we all know how the minister sleeps well at night. His department can approve hundreds of coalmines right up and down the Queensland coastline—and that is being a good environmentalist because as he sells the coal overseas he can then say he has not done anything to cause global warming as it is someone else's fault that they burn it. It makes you wonder though what it is he thought they were going to do with the coal if they did not use it to generate power. Let us not push the minister too far, as it has taken him 2½ years to extend his logic to this point.

Another area I wish to touch on relates to the online booking service for permits within national parks. The non-government committee members and I are concerned about the vague response given with regard to the rollout of the online booking service. Despite numerous attempts to ascertain when the project will be completed, the committee was advised it remained a 'work in progress'. Given Labor's track record in Queensland of bungling IT projects—who will ever forget the Health payroll debacle?—the non-government committee members would have appreciated the minister providing more details as to the time frames around the contract and the project, what changes to the project scope have occurred and why, as well as if there is going to be any variance in the cost of the delivery of the project.

We also discovered that Labor has slashed funding for pest and weed control in national parks by 30 per cent. The minister was forced to admit a paltry \$5.9 million will be spent across more than 13.5 million hectares of our protected estates in 2017-18, amounting to just 44 cents a hectare. It is no wonder our national parks are becoming a haven for wild dogs, cats, pigs and invasive weeds.

Finally, we know Queensland is trailing other states under this do-nothing Labor government, with Queensland now equal to Tasmania in terms of economic growth. Construction work in Queensland is down and so is business spending according to the July CommSec *State of the States* report. Labor's market-led proposal framework is an unmitigated failure, and Labor's superannuation raids and its lack of a comprehensive job plan that delivers real results is leading to terrible rates of youth unemployment right across Queensland. Labor's legacy will be one of job losses, higher cost of living and failed management.

Only the LNP has a plan to build a better Queensland. We have our \$100 million Get Queensland Working package, our pledge to freeze family car registration for another three years and a workable market-led proposals framework which will enhance investment in Queensland. The LNP has a range of additional policy announcements on the environment to be released in due course, along with our already announced positions and policies on a container deposit scheme, a single use plastic bag ban, our comprehensive crocodile management plan and our plans to protect the Great Barrier Reef.

(Time expired)