



Speech By  
**Dr Christian Rowan**

**MEMBER FOR MOGGILL**

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Record of Proceedings, 21 August 2019


**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL**

**APPROPRIATION BILL**

**Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)**

**Appropriation Bill**

**Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee, Report**

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (2.40 pm): I rise to address the recent budget estimates hearings with respect to the Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee and, specifically, to address the committee's consideration as it pertains to my shadow ministerial portfolio responsibility of the arts. One of the key projects and areas of responsibility under the minister for environment and the arts is the planning, rollout and ongoing management of the container refund scheme. Although the government has placed the operation of this scheme in the hands of the not-for-profit Coex, as this year's estimates reveal, there have been serious issues arising from the rollout of the scheme and its operation.

Notwithstanding the questions raised by my colleague the shadow minister for the environment and LNP member for Broadwater as to the procurement process to appoint Coex as the scheme operator as well as the processes around the selection of the chair, the former Labor candidate for the seat of Warrego, it is a sad reality that no amount of good intentions by the Palaszczuk Labor government can mask what is happening on the ground, especially in my electorate of Moggill. Although the government may like to trumpet recycling rates, many residents in the western suburbs are still waiting and wanting to know when they will see a dedicated government supported refund site.

Nearly 10 months ago, after the removal of the Kenmore site on the eve of the full rollout of the scheme with no communication or consultation with my community, I wrote to the Labor government seeking an explanation of when residents could expect a refund site in their electorate. The response I received in December last year was that the government appointed company, Coex, was 'actively working to identify and provide refund points in Kenmore and surrounding areas as a priority.' With not a single dedicated Coex provided refund site to direct my constituents to, and as we approach the first anniversary of the Labor government's delayed launch of this scheme, serious questions must be asked as to whether the Palaszczuk Labor government is genuinely committed to improving recycling rates in Queensland.

What is more, true to the Queensland Labor Party's do-nothing approach to government, questions should be asked as to what constitutes a priority as residents in my electorate and the surrounding areas continue to stockpile their containers in the hope that one day a site may eventually come to fruition. However, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the Rotary Club of Kenmore, which has done an outstanding job in providing two of its own collection sites to residents

and, in doing so, helped fundraise for this great community organisation and other local groups. In fact, recently, I was delighted to attend the Rotary Club of Kenmore's community award night where, thanks to the club's fundraising efforts and the support of the local business community, a number of terrific community organisations were able to receive financial and other support to continue the great work they do in the western suburbs and in the electorate of Moggill. To that end, I congratulate president Martin Grabert, master of ceremonies Greg Adermann, and Stuart Stoddart.

I now turn to the ministerial portfolio of the arts. The 2019 estimates hearings revealed that, despite the public controversy surrounding the displayed work of Australian paedophile artist Donald Friend at the *Margaret Olley: a generous life* exhibition at the Queensland Art Gallery and Gallery of Modern Art, no consideration had been given by the Labor government towards donating proceeds generated by this exhibition to child victim support groups. Whether these works should have been included at all is another matter. It is pleasing to note that the director of the Queensland Art Gallery indicated to the committee that he was prepared to consider this.

I also note that the Minister for the Arts informed the committee that she was 'happy to have that conversation with the board' regarding the proposal to donate proceeds to child victim support groups. It would be greatly appreciated if the minister could inform the House whether she has met with the board since her undertaking to the committee and, if so, the outcome of the meeting. During these estimates committee hearings questions were also raised in relation to the Labor government's intention to create an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural centre in Brisbane whilst at the same time serious concerns remain regarding the Palaszczuk Labor government's commitment towards the Cairns gallery precinct project.

As the LNP shadow minister for the arts, I take this opportunity to congratulate Opera Queensland for their terrific 2020 season launch, which I attended on Monday night this week along with the Minister for the Arts. There is no doubt that Opera Queensland has an exciting program planned for the year ahead. Finally, I thank the Minister for the Arts for her attendance at estimates and acknowledge all the members of the committee who were present on the day. I would also like to acknowledge and thank the committee secretariat and the staff for their hard work, because there is certainly a lot of work that is put into preparing for these estimates processes. Once again, I thank them and acknowledge their contribution.