



Speech By
Jann Stuckey

MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN

Record of Proceedings, 8 August 2017

**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL:
LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE**

 **Mrs STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (5.39 pm): As I commented in my budget reply speech, the nodding and cheering during the Treasurer's speech resembled a shabby excuse for a rent-a-crowd beholden to their union gods as government MPs praised a disgraceful con of a budget designed to deceive and fool the decent people of Queensland. The same behaviour infiltrated the estimates hearing—the protection racket strategy was very evident—but the honourable member for Stretton's speech as chair of this committee takes the cake: he wasted five minutes talking about the LNP.

The con was played out again only last week during Labor's sham of a week of governance on the Gold Coast, where Premier Palaszczuk and her cabinet blatantly used every opportunity to trot out ALP candidates. The Premier was so desperate to get a full room at the Currumbin RSL that she resorted to robocalls to draw in a rent-a-crowd. Media reported the calls as a blurring of the lines between whether the meeting was a forum held by an elected official or a party political event. Everyone I spoke to said it was the latter, with the room awash with candidates' corflutes and brochures.

Mr BAILEY: I rise to a point of order. This has absolutely nothing to do with the budget estimates process and I suggest that the member for Currumbin come back to the topic.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Millar): I will give you some latitude, member for Currumbin, but could we stick with estimates, please.

Mrs STUCKEY: I am sure that budget dollars were spent in some way—so much so that the candidate for Currumbin's helpers were so pushy that they were interrupting the audience trying to get them to write down their details.

The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee estimates hearings were held on 20 July and it was a long day for all involved. I thank Hansard and the parliamentary staff, the agencies in attendance and fellow committee members. I realise that government committee members are relative newcomers in their first term, but the need to bring in agitators like the members for Logan and Bulimba to disrupt proceedings proved that Labor's protection racket is thriving. Estimates is meant to be a time when the opposition and backbenchers can ask the government some probing questions, but the minute the heat went up a bit in the kitchen they would interrupt with their frivolous points of order to deliberately sabotage opposition question time.

I utilised the hearing to ask the Commissioner about the appointment of a school based police officer to be shared between Palm Beach-Currumbin State High School and Elanora State High School. It is an issue that deserves proper attention. Support is strong from both principals and our local police. It is over a year since written inquiries were made, and I have to say that we were given a bit of a run-around. Under the LNP 15 SBPOs were appointed in 2012, and despite advice from the education department that none had been appointed since, I discovered that a new officer had been assigned to a Mount Isa school. During estimates we learned from the Assistant Commissioner that officers have been in meetings with principals to discuss a different approach rather than the appointment of a specific officer. What does that mean? Does that mean we are not getting one at all?

Labor is dumping an initiative which works at a time when it has been revealed that drugs and weapons are being found on primary and high school students, we had a bomb hoax at our largest high school and a 12-year-old was charged with an armed hold-up at a Gold Coast service station. SBPOs provide education and early intervention to help keep young people out of trouble, offering another layer of guidance from within the school compound. I question whether the principals are satisfied with this new approach, as I know that both would prefer an SBPO like the ones based in other schools. This sounds like yet another cost-cutting measure from a lazy, incompetent government desperate to prop up dwindling police numbers. Are they going to chop all 50 SBO positions? Labor have well and truly dropped the ball on student support, and we will pay the price for that in the future. Shamefully, they have chosen resources over student safety.

I also championed the cause of rural fireys. Currumbin has three rural fire brigades of which I am very proud—Currumbin Valley, Tomewin and Tallebudgera—all with very dedicated volunteers who spend countless hours undertaking training before they can attend fires. They were rightly concerned when they received a memo stating there was to be no exemption for RFS appliances using the M1, even if they were responding to an emergency. I asked the minister about the impact of new transport rules due to start on 1 August which would force rural fire brigade trucks to use left-hand lanes and if he was aware they were not exempt. The minister was unable to answer my question and said, 'Get them to come through Queensland Fire and Emergency Services or my office and we will chase it up.' Why couldn't the minister have taken the question on notice so I could inform my brigades directly? I am pleased to report that my direct advocacy resulted in rural fireys being able to apply for a special circumstances permit which will allow them to use whatever lane is available to them. Here was yet another example of oversight and poor planning as the countdown to the Commonwealth Games draws near. How many more things have gone unnoticed? Only the LNP have a plan to build a better Queensland.