



Speech by

Andrew Cripps

MEMBER FOR HINCHINBROOK

Hansard Thursday, 4 August 2011

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL AND APPROPRIATION BILL: FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

 **Mr CRIPPS** (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (8.47 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the estimates hearings for the Finance and Administration Committee as they pertain to the parliament. All honourable members in this place are aware of the impact that the widespread serious flooding had in Central and Southern Queensland earlier this year and the impact Cyclone Yasi had on communities in North Queensland. My electorate of Hinchinbrook was badly affected by Tropical Cyclone Yasi. The electorate of Lockyer was particularly badly affected by the very serious flood event that occurred in the Lockyer Valley.

Whilst the communities of many members on both sides of the House were badly affected, the member for Lockyer and I had some particular circumstances to encounter in our own communities. I want to say a few words during the course of the debate on the budget estimates for this committee because I want to place on record my gratitude and the gratitude of the honourable member for Lockyer to the Speaker for the personal attention that he paid to the circumstances of my electorate staff and the electorate staff of the member for Lockyer, and for the particularly generous way in which the Hon. Speaker paid particular attention to my circumstances and the circumstances of the family of the member for Lockyer.

It was very much appreciated by both me and the member for Lockyer. I acknowledge the fact that the member for Bundamba also thanked the Speaker for the particular attention that he paid to the circumstances of her Bundamba electorate office staff and to her circumstances. We have to understand that, in many ways, the 94 electorate offices across the state of Queensland are extensions of the parliament. It was quite clear to me from the contact that I had with the Speaker that he considers the welfare of the people who work in those offices as important as the welfare of the people who work in this House. I relay my gratitude and that of the member for Lockyer to the Speaker.