

APPROPRIATION (CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNT) RECURRENT 2013–14 BILL 2013
APPROPRIATION (CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNT) CAPITAL 2013–14 BILL 2013

Second Reading — Cognate Debate

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

HON NICK GOIRAN (South Metropolitan) [9.35 pm]: Mr President, I thank you so much for the opportunity to contribute to these important bills before the house, the Appropriation (Consolidated Account) Recurrent 2013–14 Bill 2013 and the Appropriation (Consolidated Account) Capital 2013–14 Bill 2013. I say at the outset in the remaining time for this debate that I stand out of a sense of compassion for the chamber. That is because whenever we think that we cannot see a greater level of ineptitude by opposition members, they continue to excel time and again. Let me suggest that the cognate debate on these bills has been a wonderful example of why members opposite sit on that side of the chamber. Out of a sense of compassion for the new members opposite and knowing full well that the Leader of the Opposition will not bother to tell them this, I thought I might take the opportunity to assist those members to understand the distinction between the two different manners of procedure in this house for debate on the budget.

At the moment we are debating two bills in a cognate fashion. Typically, the custom of the house is that members will contribute to the noting of the budget papers. I note that on 13 August this year the honourable Leader of the House moved a motion to suspend standing orders to the extent necessary to enable a change to the time limits for speeches on these bills. I will remind members about what has happened since 13 August this year. Members opposite obviously needed another couple of months to prepare their speeches because they were not ready on 13 August.

Hon Kate Doust: We were.

Hon NICK GOIRAN: Where were they? They were missing in action.

Hon Kate Doust: I gave my speech.

Hon NICK GOIRAN: The Leader of the Opposition in particular, amazingly, did not feel the need to comment on the budget papers. Is that not a remarkable set of circumstances? It would be an interesting exercise to go back in history to see how many times the budget papers have been tabled in this place and how many times the Leader of the Opposition has failed to make a speech.

Several members interjected.

Hon NICK GOIRAN: Some kind of shadow education minister she is! Maybe she should join Hon Sally Talbot and retreat to the back bench.

Hon Helen Morton: I agree.

Point of Order

Hon SUE ELLERY: Seriously, Mr President, is that kind of personal abuse absolutely necessary: I should retreat and go back to the back bench? Really?

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! The member is within her right to take a point of order. There is no point of order, but I hope that the member on his feet will now start referring to the appropriation consolidated accounts.

Debate Resumed

Hon NICK GOIRAN: As we have debated the appropriation bills in this cognate fashion, a plethora of speakers from the opposition have contributed to these bills, unlike the motion to note the tabled papers that they did not feel the need to debate but needed a couple of months to get their speech notes in order. Nevertheless, we have the opportunity now and I am pleased to see that members opposite, after those two months of preparation, have had the opportunity to contribute. I would have thought that with two months of preparation, the speeches would be good. Unfortunately, rather than good contributions from members opposite, we have had a raft of ridiculous and at times outrageous contributions.

Point of Order

Hon KATE DOUST: I question the relevance of the remarks being made by the member. I have not yet heard him discuss either recurrent or capital matters in the appropriation bills. Maybe he is aiming for a slow burn of a speech, but I would have thought, Mr President, that when you asked him to refer to the legislation with which we are dealing, he would focus his remarks on those areas and not attempt to slag off members on this side.

Hon Simon O'Brien interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! I think if Hon Simon O'Brien wants to contribute to that point of order, he should at least stand and seek the call.

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN: On that point of order —

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order, members! It is late at night and I realise it has been a long day.

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN: I want to make a positive contribution on this point of order. The fact is that my colleague is not out of order. Firstly, it has been a long-established principle of this house that the appropriation bills lend themselves to debate on any subject. Secondly, another age-old rule is that we may not like what we hear a member contribute to the debate, but the fact is that we have to sit and listen while they say it. That works both ways, so there is no point of order.

The PRESIDENT: Usually that is the advice that comes from the Chair.

Hon Simon O'Brien: I am just trying to help!

The PRESIDENT: Nothing the member has said is unparliamentary; therefore, there is no point of order.

I point out that I have some very impressionable guests in the President's gallery and I would hate them to go away with the impression that we are not being constructive in our debate. With two minutes remaining, I give the call back to Hon Nick Goiran.

Debate Resumed

Hon NICK GOIRAN: I understand why there has been such a disturbance from members opposite. I have not come in here with a newspaper to read and share with members. I want to talk about a range of matters, and I note that I have only 41 minutes to do that, so I regret I will not be able to do that this evening.

In my introductory remarks, I was standing with a sense of compassion for the chamber due to the ineptitude of members opposite. As I was saying until I was rudely interrupted on a couple occasions, I would have thought that members opposite would have used the preparation time and their skills to ensure they made a good contribution. That has not happened. We have had examples tonight of members coming into the chamber and reading newspapers and the like. I indicate to members opposite how to deliver a budget speech, because clearly they are unable to do it. This is only my second opportunity to do that because, unlike the Leader of the Opposition, I did contribute to noting the tabled papers, which were the budget papers, and, unlike some members opposite, I will also contribute to the consideration of this bill. With those introductory remarks, I suggest —

The PRESIDENT: Order! I know that members will be disappointed, but noting the time I have to interrupt the debate to take members' statements.

Debate adjourned, pursuant to standing orders.