



Speech by

Mr M. HORAN

MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH

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CAPITAL WORKS BUDGET

Mr HORAN (Toowoomba South—NPA) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.17 a.m.): The notice of motion was very timely, given that horseshoes are currently being handed out to honourable members. It is about time the minister recognised trail riders' rights to the responsible use of national parks.

Yesterday I spoke about the incompetence, non-delivery and arrogance that has become the hallmark of this Beattie Labor government. Today I want to add to that list—a list that is growing day by day. One of the most important things for the development and growth of our state is a growth in capital works spending and the targeting of capital works at important projects that will make this state more efficient and a place that is easy for people to visit as tourists and when doing business.

Importantly, we are seeing a decline in capital works. Budget to budget the capital works spending in this state has declined. Last financial year we saw an underspend of \$280 million in capital works. It has to be concerning to the people of this state that we are seeing a cutback in capital works spending in Queensland—the last thing we need when we are trying to create employment and ensure that major projects go ahead.

We see non-delivery again with the tilt train, which is at least one year behind schedule. It now seems that the tilt train, which was designed to provide speedy travel between Rockhampton and Cairns, adding to the existing leg from Brisbane to Rockhampton, will take five hours longer than proposed. A tilt train is supposed to be designed for speed.

One of the most important tasks of government is to encourage investment in our state. The major way to encourage investment is by having a low tax regime. Overnight we have seen \$80 million in extra coal royalties ripped out of Queensland. How will that encourage investment in this state? The government received an extra \$130 million in coal royalties last year because of increased exports.

Time expired.
