




Speech by

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MEMBER FOR INALA

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CROSS RIVER RAIL

 **Ms PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (12.28 am): This week we saw some very interesting revelations from the Newman government to deal with public transport in South-East Queensland. And what was that unique development that we saw this week? What was the complete backflip of priorities that we saw from the Newman government this week? I can tell members of the House what that backflip was. It was to adopt the Labor government's previous policy of Cross River Rail.

I do want to highlight for the House some interesting comments that have been made by various members of the government in their past roles in this state. For example, on 14 July 2010 in a *Brisbane Times* article, then Councillor Newman said that he and other South-East Queensland mayors would back the project despite each having other projects to pitch to the federal government for funding. In fact, he said—

I, and the other mayors, all have other projects with different priorities which we would like to get up, but we think this should have the priority.

That is what then Councillor Newman said at the time. Then on 18 March 2011 what did we see in a *Brisbane Times* article? We saw then Councillor Newman speaking at a Property Council forum. And what did he say? He said—

I'd like to actually see this cross river rail project completely stopped right now.

So one minute he is supporting it and the next minute he is not supporting it. Then we saw a press release issued by the Minister for Transport. What did the Minister for Transport say? He said very clearly—

Priority delivery of ... Cross River Rail works followed by northern and southern surface works.

So now we see the government adopting Labor's previous policy of Cross River Rail. This is the solution to the inner-rail capacity problem in South-East Queensland. It will benefit the Gold Coast. It will benefit the Sunshine Coast. This is the answer.

But in another ironic backflip, the Minister for Transport said that he supported the Cleveland solution. The Cleveland solution was touted during the election campaign as being the preferred option. He did an exclusive interview with Spencer Jolly on Channel 9. They also interviewed the Lord Mayor, Graham Quirk, who said that 'the Cleveland solution is going to be our solution for inner-rail capacity'. What we have seen very clearly from the transport minister and the Premier this week is that their answer is Cross River Rail. Let it be noted in this House that Cross River Rail was the Labor Party's policy and this government has adopted Labor Party policy once again.

(Time expired)