



Speech by


Hon. Campbell Newman

MEMBER FOR ASHGROVE

Hansard Wednesday, 1 August 2012

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Infrastructure Projects

 **Hon. CKT NEWMAN** (Ashgrove—LNP) (Premier) (2.04 pm): My government came into office with a promise of delivering better infrastructure and better planning. Immediate action has been taken to deliver on this commitment. This government is getting Queensland back on track through, firstly, the creation of a new department dedicated to delivering better infrastructure and better planning under the leadership of the Deputy Premier; secondly, the formation of Infrastructure Queensland to provide the government with advice on infrastructure planning and development; and, thirdly, the establishment of Projects Queensland within Treasury to identify new and innovative ways of funding and delivering infrastructure projects. I pause for a moment to remark on how delighted we are that Mr David Stewart has taken on the role of heading up Projects Queensland.

I am pleased to advise the House that we are taking further action to deal with the major infrastructure challenges facing the state. In Queensland's 2012 submission to Infrastructure Australia, to be lodged this Friday, 3 August, my government is pursuing federal funding commitments, with the top three priorities identified as, firstly, fixing the Bruce Highway; secondly, delivering a Brisbane inner-city rail solution package—

Ms Palaszczuk: Cross River Rail?

Mr NEWMAN:—and, thirdly, delivering a second Toowoomba range crossing. I take the interjection. I think they first spoke about Cross River Rail in 2005 or 2006. Where is it? It is a nowhere project to date.

The Bruce Highway is the main artery of Queensland's transport network and it is critical for the efficient, reliable and safe movement of people and freight. Fixing the Bruce Highway is my government's top priority, and Queensland's submission to Infrastructure Australia seeks funding to progressively upgrade this highway.

The government has also committed to providing \$1 billion towards fixing the Bruce Highway on the condition that the Commonwealth government urgently brings forward expenditure to fix this link within 10 years. The Bruce Highway Crisis Management Group has been established and has been given six months to deliver an engineering based, 10-year Bruce Highway crisis action plan.

During the election my government committed to reviewing the previous government's plan for the multimillion dollar Cross River Rail project. An independent expert panel was appointed to undertake this review.

Ms Palaszczuk: What about your Cleveland solution?

Mr NEWMAN: In response, the Brisbane inner-city rail solution package has been developed based on the key findings of this review. This package includes, firstly, early capacity works comprising short- to medium-term initiatives valued at around \$300 million to make the best use of existing infrastructure and services to facilitate increased rail capacity. I will stop for a second because that is what those opposite interjecting right now would never do because they simply did not get it and would not work hard enough.

The package also includes core work comprising the Cross River Rail north-south core project between Yeerongpilly and Victoria Park. We are going to do everything we can to value engineer that down from the current estimate of approximately \$4.4 billion. There are still savings to be made. Work is currently underway to get on with the whole project.

Inclusion of the Toowoomba range second crossing as a top priority project reflects my government's commitment to deliver on the infrastructure needs of rural and regional Queensland. The new route is proposed between Helidon Spa and the Warrego Highway interchange at Charlton and will play a pivotal role in the national transport network and the developing energy sector of the Surat Basin. The Warrego Highway is a nationally significant freight route, and allowing heavy vehicles to bypass Toowoomba will significantly improve the livability of this major regional city.

The government's priority projects need significant federal funding to be delivered, and my government is committed to working to secure the funding from the Commonwealth that Queensland deserves.