




Speech by  
**Jackie Trad**

**MEMBER FOR SOUTH BRISBANE**

Hansard Tuesday, 19 June 2012

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**MOTION: BUDGET STRATEGIES**

 **Ms TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (6.06 pm): It gives me great pleasure to rise tonight and speak in support of the opposition's motion. It is particularly rewarding to follow the member for Caloundra, who was also the lead counsel, I understand, for Mal Brough in his legal deliberations currently.

I understand how infrastructure can transform communities. I understand this personally having watched South Brisbane be transformed throughout my lifetime—a community that has been modernised thanks to major infrastructure projects delivered by successive Labor governments. From the construction of the Goodwill and Kurilpa bridges to our world-class busways that have modernised public transport in the southern and northern suburbs of our city, from our nationally acclaimed cultural and recreational facilities including the Gallery of Modern Art and the State Library to the vibrant South Bank precinct, Labor has transformed this city.

But beyond South Brisbane, in every corner of this state, Labor has commissioned, built and delivered major infrastructure, connecting and strengthening regional communities. The Tugun bypass, the Sunshine Motorway, the Forgan Bridge project in Mackay, the cruise ship terminal in Cairns—all commissioned, all built, all delivered by Labor.

**Government members** interjected.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Order! The member will resume her seat. There are too many interjections from the back of the chamber. I ask members to cease their interjections. I call the member.

**Ms TRAD:** This type of investment is the hallmark of great Labor governments. Indeed, this is what Labor does. During times of economic downturn, when people need us to keep the economy going, we invest in major projects—projects built to serve Queenslanders generation in, generation out. Did this generate some debt? Absolutely. And was it fully disclosed? Absolutely.

**Government members** interjected.

**Ms TRAD:** When you renovate your house, you borrow to build. This is certainly what councils have done.

**Government members** interjected.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Order! The member will resume her seat. I call the member.

**Ms TRAD:** This is also what councils have done across this state to build infrastructure. When Queensland Labor Premier William Forgan Smith took office during the Great Depression in 1932, the national unemployment rate was at a record high of 30 per cent. So what did Forgan Smith do? Did he cut spending? No. Did he slash jobs? No. This forward-thinking, determined Labor Premier embarked on an ambitious capital works agenda, commissioning iconic projects including the construction of the Story Bridge, the upgrade of the Mackay Harbour and the development of Somerset Dam, just to name a few.

What was the result of these investments? In 1938, Smith was praised for delivering the lowest unemployment rate in Australia. So when the Labor government was faced with the biggest global financial crisis since the Great Depression, Labor again made a choice—the choice to invest in communities right across Queensland, to keep people in jobs and to keep local economies alive. We continued to build

bridges, hospitals, busways. We built for Queensland's future. When Queensland was then hit by the worst natural disasters in our history, Labor again chose to build and employ—rebuilding roads, repairing our rail network. What the Costello political audit suggests is that we should have cut jobs during the GFC—that we should have closed down building sites, that we should have not recruited nurses, teachers and police officers—and that we should have left Queensland in the rubble after the worst natural disasters in our recorded history. I am proud to say that Labor did no such thing.

Those opposite have the gall to come into this House and complain about debt after the Premier and Treasurer left the Brisbane City Council with a revenue-to-debt ratio expected to peak at 150 per cent. Even if we used the Commission of Audit's absurdly negative forecast for Queensland, the state's revenue-to-debt ratio peak is still lower than that of the Brisbane City Council.

Those opposite have the gall to come into this House and complain about debt after spending years lobbying successive Labor governments to build infrastructure or to fund council to build infrastructure. 'Give council money to rebuild the CityCat terminals,' the then Lord Mayor, now Premier, demanded. 'Build me a stadium,' the member for Kawana demanded. While we are on the subject of sports infrastructure, let us revisit comments made by the member for Buderim earlier today in relation to the aerial ski facility. What the member for Buderim unwittingly revealed this morning is that it was the Howard-Costello government that originally pursued and approved the aerial ski facility—a fact confirmed in the *Courier-Mail* article at the time. I table the article for the benefit of the House.

*Tabled paper:* Extract from The *Courier-Mail*, dated 3 December 2010, titled 'Sleeman facilities ramped up for skiers' [\[354\]](#).

So 'old mate' Costello would not put a cent into the Bruce Highway but he was happy to allocate millions to an aerial ski facility. I am proud to stand in this House as a member of the Australian Labor Party—a party that has always built Queensland, a party that has always created jobs first.

*(Time expired)*