



Speech by


Hon. Jeff Seeneey

MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

Hansard Tuesday, 21 August 2012

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Infrastructure Projects, Federal Funding

 **Hon. JW SEENEY** (Callide—LNP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning) (10.17 am): Our government is determined to return Queensland to a strong economic position. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for the Labor members on the other side of this House, nor their federal Labor counterparts in Canberra. Today we see an example of the federal Treasurer and Deputy Prime Minister of this country—a Queenslanders supposedly—threatening to cut off funding for infrastructure projects in Queensland. This is typical of Labor, it is typical of Mr Swan and it is typical of the way they are failing to govern in Canberra. They are more interested in playing politics than governing responsibly.

On Sunday the federal Treasurer decided to write a letter to the Queensland government—to the Premier, in fact—a letter that was all about politics and nothing about delivering outcomes like a railway line to Redcliffe. It was all about politics and all about Labor's political agenda. Mr Swan's letter asserted that if our government did not recommit to the funding of eight specific infrastructure projects then the federal Labor government would withdraw its funding for these projects. Queenslanders should note that Mr Swan, the member for Lilley in Brisbane, is prepared to rob them of funding for considerable road, rail, transport and health projects and redirect the money to other states.

Our government had given no indication to the federal government that there was any intention to cut funding to these projects. To the contrary, both before and after the recent state election we indicated that we supported and would continue with the funding of these projects. Yet Mr Swan ignored that and felt compelled to write a letter on the matter. He chose to play politics with the infrastructure projects that are so important to the people of the state that he represents.

His letter of course was in the hands of the media before Queensland government offices opened for business yesterday morning. That, of course, is what it was all about: a media stunt from the federal Treasurer, a political attack on the LNP government in Queensland and no consideration for the people of Queensland and the infrastructure projects that they need so badly.

Well, Mr Swan will get his answer in writing from the Premier, but I can give it to him here today as well. All the projects listed by the federal Treasurer will continue to be funded by this government—as we said we would. In raising these matters, the federal Treasurer only highlights the incompetence of the previous Labor government—of which members opposite were ministers. He has never stood up for Queensland—whether it be on Labor's mining tax, Labor's carbon tax or now the Gonski reforms that would leave almost one-third of Queensland schools worse off—but Mr Swan is more than happy to hit Queenslanders with extra taxes time after time. Labor's carbon tax, of which Mr Swan is so proud, will have a more pronounced effect upon Queensland than any other state in Australia—costing jobs, increasing costs and reducing wages. It is pertinent to note that Labor's carbon tax is supported by Labor here in Queensland.

That is Wayne Swan's legacy for Queenslanders—to add to their costs of living and to place a drag on the state's economy. The Newman government on the other hand will do all it can to grow the business of Queensland. As the Premier told the House earlier, we will ensure Queensland is open for business.