




Speech By
Annastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

MOTION: CROSS RIVER RAIL

 **Ms PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (6.14 pm): I rise to support the motion moved by the member for South Brisbane. Under this government I am yet to see any new transport infrastructure projects that have been opened or commissioned under the Newman government. In fact it was only tonight that I saw the transport minister's smiling face on Channel 10 welcoming the new Gold Coast Rapid Transit. Who commissioned the Gold Coast rapid light rail project? It was a Labor government. Yet here we have the transport minister happy, with a smile on his face from ear to ear, welcoming the first Gold Coast Rapid Transit, commissioned under the former Labor government.

When it comes to Cross River Rail, this is the solution. We have had the Premier when he was Lord Mayor ebbing and flowing on Cross River Rail. Then the Newman government said they supported it and now they do not support it. And today I open up the *Courier-Mail* and here is a new proposal. I wonder where these new stations are going to be and how much this metro is going to cost the taxpayers of Queensland. And we had a call from Spencer Howson. They cannot get the transport minister on the phone; he is in hiding. They cannot get the Premier on the phone; he is in hiding. No-one from the government wants to come and explain the front page of the *Courier-Mail*. Well someone must have talked to the *Courier-Mail* about what the underground metro is going to look like—

Government members interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: Order! Members.

Ms PALASZCZUK: They do not know. They are back to the planning stages, back to the drawing board. It is going to cost billions of dollars—we know that. When rail reaches its capacity in about 2018 to 2020, they will still be planning. They will still be planning for their underground metro come that time.

Let's talk about what has happened under the watch of this transport minister. Let's talk about all the good things that have happened. One of the first things the Newman government did was they moved on Dave Stewart, one of the most respected directors-general of the transport department. They moved him on. And who did they move him aside for? Who was that? Michael Caltabiano comes to mind and, yes, that worked out really well, didn't it, Minister for Transport? We loved that estimates hearing, didn't we? That did not go according to plan, or maybe it did. Maybe it did go according to plan.

Mr Pitt: It's like that old TV show—*The Fall Guy*.

Ms PALASZCZUK: *The Fall Guy*—that is it. And how much did that cost taxpayers? Around \$600,000. Then they realised, 'Hang on a minute. Dave Stewart, one of the most respected transport minds in Queensland—let's bring him back. Let's bring him back to government because now we know how much we have lost by not having him around.' And how much did that sorry debacle cost the Queensland taxpayers in total? \$1 million under your watch.

What else has happened under your watch, Transport Minister? The botched bus review. How can we forget the botched bus review! 'Let's go and do consultation. We're going to rip out all these bus services. The pensioners won't be able to catch their buses. Let's cut out the night services as well.' That was a hot potato, wasn't it? The Premier came in and said to the transport minister, 'Well, Transport Minister, this is a real fine mess you've got us into, a real pickle. What we're going to do now is send it to the council because the transport minister can't handle his portfolio.' You have been there for 18 months and there have been bumbles and there have been directors-general who have had to resign and you have moved aside other directors-general and now you have appointed someone to be the CEO—

Madam SPEAKER: Order! Leader of the Opposition, I bring you back to the motion before the House.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Now we have the appointment of Glen Dawe as CEO of Queensland Rail. We still do not know where he was ranked in the process and why someone else who was ranked No. 1 was not actually put on as CEO.

Madam SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, I draw you back to the motion before the House.

Ms PALASZCZUK: In conclusion, let me say this: Cross River Rail is needed; it is shovel-ready. It will generate 7,000 jobs. Now this government is going back to the drawing board.

Mr Emerson interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: How much is your new proposal going to cost? You have no answers. You have no solutions. You are the most incompetent transport minister this state has ever seen.

(Time expired)