




Speech By  
**Steve Minnikin**

**MEMBER FOR CHATSWORTH**

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**MOTION: INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS**

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (5.50 pm): The member for South Brisbane is the gift that just keeps on giving. I believe this is probably her third or fourth private member's motion this year. She reminds me somewhat of the little engine that thought she could—I think I can; I think I can. But, once again, she fails to deliver and she is out of steam.

I am going to refer to the member for South Brisbane straight away. I would like to bring to the attention of the House an article in the *Queensland Times* in March of this year. It is headed 'Blacksoil lies are exposed'. It actually goes back and showcases the ineptitude of the Bligh Labor government. But in keeping with this transport theme of how inept these transport tyros still are, it brings in the member for South Brisbane. Let us begin with the sordid tale of the Blacksoil overpass.

The scenery is something like this. In the middle of January 2012, then Premier Anna Bligh advised the press that the Blacksoil project would cost around \$70 million. But a bit later on there was a Department of Transport and Main Roads briefing note which was sent to the then minister for main roads, fisheries and marine infrastructure—a gentleman by the name of Mr Craig Wallace—which told a completely different story. The leaked document was sent to the then minister in early February 2012. It said—

... "as of 2 December 2011, the detailed design cost estimate for the project has been finalised—  
not at \$70 million, as Anna Bligh espoused—  
and is anticipated to cost \$94.4 million".

The article goes on—

Acknowledging the \$24 million discrepancy, the noting brief then anticipates the impact the revelation of the truth would have if made public.

No way in the world was the Labor Party going to let a \$24 million blowout get in the way of a good story.

I am going to keep going with the Blacksoil issue very shortly. The simple fact of the matter is that the torch within the ALP may have been passed on to other incoming members, but their trickery, their meanness, their deceitfulness is maintained. It does not matter what Hornby train track they try to put together, the deceit and the trickery is maintained. The article in the *Queensland Times* states further—

Earlier this year Ms Trad told The QT in a written press release that the LNP Government, including the Member for Ipswich West Sean Choat, was responsible for the cost blow-out.

The article, interestingly, goes on to say—

"The Federal Government held up their end of the bargain, delivering \$54 million in June 2012 towards what was a \$70 million project ... in the meantime, the delays have seen the project blown out to \$94 million—a 30 per cent increase on what was originally budgeted," Ms Trad said.

She was trying to point out that it was the incoming LNP government that was responsible for the \$24 million blowout. But wait, there is more to this Hornby saga. The *Queensland Times* article goes to on say—

But the secret document says that “the increase in costs has been caused by the discovery that material on site is unsuitable for construction purposes and all required embankment material will need to be imported to site.”

It, in fact, had nothing to do with the member for Ipswich West. This is just another example of the lies, deceit, trickery that the member South Brisbane is prepared to come into this House and speak to the press—

**Mr PITT:** I rise to a point of order, Madam Speaker. That language is unparliamentary.

**Madam SPEAKER:** I ask the member to please withdraw that.

**Mr MINNIKIN:** I withdraw that comment. I will go on to give further examples of the ALP’s ineptitude and why I label all of them as transport tyros. The minister, who is doing an incredible job, talked about some of the work that has been done—and I repeat, has been done.

I was at a media conference on open level crossings in the middle of this year with the member for Nudgee and the Lord Mayor. I will refer to two red spot survey documents. The seven members opposite, who are probably best transported in a Tarago, would know that back in 2004 they did a red spot survey and did one again six years later in 2010. As part of the red spot survey it identified—and it is here in black and white—the Newman Road at Robinson Road east and west intersection at Geebung and Telegraph Road at Bald Hills as chronically looking for an overpass solution.

Was that done in all the time that the Labor Party was in government? We all know the answer to that question. It is a resounding no—bing bong. It was not until the incoming Newman government came to town that those projects got done, making a mockery of the member for South Brisbane’s assertions.

*(Time expired)*