




Speech By
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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Federal Budget, Northern Australia

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (10.25 am): What a great example of grown-up governance from the Treasurer of this state! Let us hope he puts his mind to the budget that he is going to bring down in just a couple of months with the same diligence he showed with that little joke that we just saw. The Palaszczuk-Gordon government's disjointed response was exemplified by the example we just saw from the Treasurer. Their response to the federal budget last week showed their inexperience and their complete lack of cohesion across important policy areas. They were eager to grandstand, and we have just seen the Treasurer do it again, as a way of hiding their policy shortcomings but they failed to look at the finer print. We know they have no plan. Now they have no excuses.

The truth of the matter is that this year's federal budget includes an extra \$819 million in funding for Queensland hospitals from 2014-15 to 2018-19. The truth is that Queensland schools will receive an \$876 million increase over the same time period. The truth is that Queensland's forecast GST revenue will grow by \$6.7 billion in the five years to 2018-19. The truth is the budget includes major investments in key infrastructure projects like the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing, the Bruce Highway and the Warrego Highway. But those statistics do not rate a mention in Labor's comical response to the federal budget. We had the health minister out there like Henny Penny straight after the budget saying that jobs might have to go. The Treasurer, who was standing behind him at the press conference, almost had a puzzled look on his face as the member for Woodridge spoke and he was not so sure when asked whether jobs would have to go.

Then we had the Premier's public slap-down of the member for Woodridge. The Premier had to call out the health minister for embellishing the truth. Inevitably, the Treasurer's response—the ineffectual Treasurer, apart from tossing coins as we have seen this morning—was no better. One would have thought the possibility of an extra \$5 billion flowing into northern Australia might have excited our Treasurer, a North Queensland MP but not the member for Mulgrave. He was quick to get on the front foot, dismiss the northern Australia loan facility in his press release on the very night of the budget. Instead of putting forward ideas about projects that he might like to see in his area, the Treasurer's first instinct was to criticise it. He must have had a few phone calls from constituents overnight because the language in his press release the next day was very different. Suddenly he said he cautiously welcomed the scheme.

Labor's attempts to deflect attention away from its own budget shortcomings failed miserably last week. There are only two months until the Palaszczuk-Gordon government's first budget. Queenslanders want to know how those opposite are going to live up to their promises to reduce debt, deliver the forecast fiscal surpluses, not increase or introduce any new taxes, return the state's AAA credit rating and deliver more funding for critical service areas. They do not want infighting and inaction; they want action and ideas, and they are not getting it from this inexperienced joke of a government.