




Speech By  
**Andrew Powell**

**MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE**

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Record of Proceedings, 13 September 2016

**MOTION: ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE, FEDERAL FUNDING**

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (5.34 pm): I move—

That all words after 'parliament' be deleted and the following words be inserted:

'requests the Australian government play its role in the development of Queensland roads and jobs across this state by:

- agreeing to apply the 80-20 funding arrangement for the M1 upgrades because the M1 is part of the National Land Transport Network, consistent with the federal government's election commitment and as defined on maps published by their own department and calls on the Minister for Main Roads to negotiate federal road funding faithfully and get on with delivering infrastructure for Queenslanders;
- expediting the announcement and commencement of successful projects in the North Australian Roads Program that was first announced on 18 June 2015 and calls on the Minister for Main Roads to respond to the federal infrastructure and transport minister's letter of August 2016 and accept funding for successful projects under the same program;
- expediting the announcement and commencement of successful Queensland projects in the Beef Roads Program that was also first announced on 18 June 2015; and
- noting the LNP's experience in negotiating and delivering upgrades for federal roads including the Bruce Highway, Gateway Motorway, Warrego Highway and Toowoomba Second Range Crossing.'

What we have here tonight is confirmation that the Palaszczuk Labor government is more interested in political point-scoring than delivering for Queensland. This minister is incapable of having a serious conversation with his federal counterparts. Instead he would rather throw his toys out of the cot and chuck a tantrum. Policy by press conference is the style of this government. Quite simply, Queenslanders deserve better.

The minister has been unable to negotiate in good faith, instead preferring to grandstand and pull stunts like we see this evening. This main roads minister is not up to his job and cannot negotiate to save his life. As is always the case, Queenslanders miss out as a result.

We can only assume that this motion tonight has come as the minister attempts to try to regain credibility after his train wreck of an interview with Steve Austin on ABC Radio. The minister thought he was being smart, engaging in a media and PR assault on the federal government instead of doing his job of sitting down and negotiating. Austin called him out. Ten times he asked if he considered Logan a city. Someone get this bloke a map! I table the transcript as a warning to Minister Bailey's colleagues as to how not to conduct a radio interview.

*Tabled paper:* Transcript from 612 ABC Brisbane—Mornings with Steve Austin, dated 8 September 2016, with Paul Fletcher on the Turnbull Government commitment of \$215 million towards Queensland's M1 motorway [\[1500\]](#).

It was also interesting to hear during that interview the minister claim that the \$86 million from the Palaszczuk government is on the table. What is he referring to? Is this funding in the budget? No, it is not. There is no funding in the budget. Maybe the minister is planning on shaking the couch cushions

to find a bit of spare change. I suspect what we are seeing tonight is actually a smokescreen. I suspect what we are seeing tonight is that they do not even have the 20 per cent needed to do this job and are using this to cover up.

It is important to recall that this is not the first time this minister has failed to negotiate. In his stand-off over funding for the Ipswich Motorway upgrade he used the same tactics—political grandstanding, media stunts and immature statements. The only difference is that the Premier had to swoop in, berate the minister and commit to 50-50 funding all because her constituents were getting annoyed at the gridlock caused by Minister Bailey.

This is in stark contrast to the LNP's record. In government we were able to achieve the best outcome for the Queensland taxpayer. It was the LNP that partnered with the federal government to deliver upgrades to the Bruce Highway and the Gateway Motorway. This was a \$10 billion program funded on a 80-20 basis.

We finally got major safety upgrades on the Warrego Highway. There was \$635 million for the Warrego Highway funded 80-20 by the federal coalition and the LNP. After years of talking by federal and state Labor, it was an LNP state government and federal coalition government that got the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing off the ground—a \$1.2 billion project for the Darling Downs, funded 80-20. It is the LNP that is able to have a mature conversation and negotiation with the federal government and get infrastructure built.

We believe in the 80-20 rule. Sometimes we have to consider what is on the table and make decisions in the best interests of Queensland. That is exactly what we did with Cooroy to Curra section A. I commend the work of the then deputy premier, who is sitting in front of me now, for taking the offer that was on the table and delivering this vital piece of infrastructure.

The minister wants to talk about being outside metropolitan Brisbane. We cannot get much further outside metropolitan Brisbane than Cooroy to Curra. What was on the table from then minister Albanese was a 50-50 deal. He found savings. He was going to return them to the Treasury coffers. He put on the table a 50-50 deal. What did the LNP government do? We took that offer because it was in the best interests of Queensland. The road is nearly finished.

This minister could do the same thing for the people on the Gold Coast and for the people in Logan. He could stop using smokescreens, accept what has been put on the table and get building, and they could have this happening now. Instead, he wants to throw his toys out of the cot, throw a tantrum and pretend he has the high and mighty moral ground. If it was good enough for federal Labor, it is good enough for state Labor. He needs to accept that there is an offer on the table. He needs to put Queenslanders first and he needs to deliver.