



Speech By  
**Hon. Curtis Pitt**


**MEMBER FOR MULGRAVE**

---

Record of Proceedings, 10 May 2016

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS**

### **Federal Budget**

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Sport) (9.49 am): Last Tuesday night the Turnbull government delivered a budget that forgot about Queensland. In fact, the most frequent mentions of Queensland across the budget papers were: the confirmation that cuts to health and education have not been restored; and the sad reality that critical National Partnership Agreements in mental health, early childhood, homelessness, skills and training, and remote Indigenous housing have not been renewed.

Queensland, the fastest-growing economy in the country, was remarkably cast aside by Mr Turnbull and Mr Morrison on the eve of a federal election. Under Mr Abbott and now Mr Turnbull, the federal coalition have deliberately withheld infrastructure investment in Queensland in an attempt to blackmail our state into selling its assets. This was a budget that said to Queenslanders, 'We will place our own ideological obsession with asset sales ahead of the will of Queensland voters,' a will expressed in the strongest possible terms over two consecutive elections.

The budget failed to deliver any funding for Cross River Rail, despite this transformative project being identified as one of the highest national priorities for several years by Infrastructure Australia. Instead, the federal coalition has chosen to channel billions of dollars into rail projects in Sydney and Melbourne. The budget failed to deliver a single cent for the Townsville stadium, despite the Palaszczuk government committing our \$100 million contribution in last year's budget. The budget failed to deliver meaningful funds for the M1-Gateway Motorway merge, South-East Queensland's biggest bottleneck, despite the Palaszczuk government committing our 20 per cent contribution as part of the State Infrastructure Plan. On a population basis alone, Queensland should have received an extra \$1 billion in new infrastructure from the \$5 billion set aside nationally. Instead, we received nothing.

Infrastructure aside, this was a budget that failed to deliver on the very jobs and growth nationally that Queensland has forecast under the Palaszczuk government. With no vision and two sets of books—one for the budget and one for the election campaign—it is no wonder national economic growth is forecast at just 2½ per cent, compared with Queensland's forecast growth of four per cent. There is honour amongst treasurers, and I recognise that budgets are hard work. I was pleased to see Mr Morrison following Queensland's lead and recognising the challenges of transitioning to a post mining boom economy. This is something that the Palaszczuk government has been talking about for many months now. I was pleased to see Mr Morrison following Queensland's lead in supporting innovation. We took to the election an Advance Queensland strategy to build on our traditional strengths and grow new industries. The Turnbull government is finally catching up.

In relation to small business initiatives in the budget, we support the long-established Commonwealth definition of small business, and this is a business with a turnover of up to \$2 million. We support the proposed tax cut for these small businesses, as does federal Labor. The Palaszczuk government is getting on with providing small businesses with the support they need to grow and innovate. What we cannot support are attempts to force Queenslanders to sell their assets in order to receive the infrastructure that our growing state needs for the future. We know that the Abbott-Turnbull asset recycling scheme is music to the ears of the member for Clayfield. Asset sales remains the new opposition leader's one-point plan for Queensland. His game plan is still the same: talk Queensland down, talk it down and repeat. Then fire sale Queenslanders' assets out the door and out of their hands forever.