




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

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MOTION: ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE, FEDERAL FUNDING

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (5.53 pm): Unlike those opposite, who have not delivered a single new major infrastructure project in the last 18 months, the LNP has a strong track record of working with the federal government to deliver vital infrastructure projects. Today's motion moved by the minister is nothing but Labor hypocrisy at its best.

The Palaszczuk Labor government needs to stop picking fights and start negotiating with the federal government because it has no plan in place of its own to pay for any infrastructure we need. This government's one and only plan surrounding infrastructure has been to cry poor, have a hissy fit—and we have seen that from the minister opposite again today—and blame the federal government when it does not get its own way. It was wonderful to be here in the chamber listening to the minister when he was talking about the Northern Australian Roads Program. The minister has obviously been so busy writing motions that he forgot to check his correspondence from the Hon. Darren Chester MP, Minister for Infrastructure and Transport. This will be of interest to the member for Mount Isa, who contributed to the minister's motion. It will be good for him to hear this because the minister has been caught out. I have a copy of the correspondence that was sent to Minister Bailey, and I am happy to table it.

Tabled paper: Letter, undated, from the federal Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, Hon. Darren Chester, to the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply, Hon. Mark Bailey, regarding the Northern Australia Roads Program [[1505](#)].

It was sent to the minister in August 2016 advising his office of the successful projects. The member for Mount Isa will be extraordinarily pleased to see that not only is the Hann Highway project that he was talking about on this list but there are also one, two, three, four, five, six other projects. Guess what this letter says? It clearly states—

I therefore seek your written agreement to delivering the six selected projects for the Northern Australia Roads Programme, and that their delivery will comply with the terms and conditions contained in the NPA.

The minister is the reason that the member for Mount Isa does not have his roads. The federal minister is waiting for this minister's response and what have we seen? A completely lazy minister who lacks dedication to his portfolio. This is a minister who does not even answer his own correspondence. This is a minister who has clearly been given direction by the federal minister, and he knows it. He cannot even write back because he is too busy grandstanding out there in front of the media.

Mr Springborg: On his tricycle.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: He is too busy on his tricycle. He is too busy to even know where these projects are. Instead, the money from the federal government is sitting there and this minister is too lazy to get out of his office and even understand that he needs to reply to correspondence. I urge the minister to look in front of him. If there is a pile in front him, sign the letter, get it back to the federal minister and actually do the job that he has been employed and is getting paid to do.

We have talked about the six roads, and I can read them out. Let's compare that to the Palaszczuk Labor government's budget delivered just three months ago. In this Labor budget they spread state funding for the Hann Highway about which the member for Mount Isa stood in this House and talked. It is interesting because this money that the member for Mount Isa was talking about in the state budget was over five years. I would hardly call that fast-tracking by any stretch of the imagination. We have this government over here taking five years to get anything done. We have a minister over here with a state that desperately needs federal funding for the roads and this minister is too lazy to look in his correspondence box, sign off on the letter and return it.

Perhaps this minister over here can reword his motion because it is very embarrassing for him that he has completely messed up. He did not realise that he has not even done his homework. He really should consider the whole motion before he puts it before the House. This minister is an embarrassment. The federal government knows it and now the whole of Queensland knows that he is a lazy minister.