




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR YEERONGPILLY

Record of Proceedings, 29 November 2016

MOTION

Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (6.29 pm): What is this motion about? This motion is about the fact that the opposition lost seven seats in North Queensland and lost government at the last election. This motion is about the fact that they lost government, three seats in Cairns, three seats in Townsville and Mirani. They smashed up and lost government, and now they are trying to gain some kind of credibility in North Queensland.

We have heard three speeches from opposition members who talked about North Queensland, but not a single word about solar or wind projects going into North Queensland. There are hundreds of millions of dollars worth of investment, and hundreds and hundreds of jobs coming into North Queensland. If we listened to the opposition, we would not even realise it existed. According to the opposition, we may as well forget about clean energy such as solar and wind, because they are not interested in North Queensland jobs and they are not interested in North Queensland investment, but this government is. The Palaszczuk government is delivering those projects into North Queensland. We are delivering a clean energy future and a more diverse energy future for North Queensland. The opposition had three years to do that, but they did absolutely nothing on energy in North Queensland other than to drive up prices by 43 per cent in only three years, which is another reason they lost government. They did not say a word about that. They are absolutely in the wrong century.

I turn to the unique North Queensland road projects being delivered by the Palaszczuk government. It is an impressive record: the Townsville Ring Road; the Bill Fulton Bridge duplication, which the member for Barron River has delivered; the Captain Cook Highway upgrade; the Hervey Range Road, which was delivered by the member for Thuringowa; the River Way Drive upgrade, which is a \$30 million investment going into Thuringowa, meaning a lot of jobs; the Vines Creek Bridges, which was delivered by the member for Mackay when the opposition could not deliver it in three years; the Cape River Bridge upgrade, south of Charters Towers, worth \$34 million; the Gregory Developmental Road; the western roads package in the north-west; the upgrade of Berth 4 at the Port of Townsville; we are getting more ships into the Cairns port; the boat ramp at Cannonvale; and the Mackay Ring Road is coming. There is incredible investment going into North Queensland under the Palaszczuk Labor government, which was something not mentioned by the LNP members because they are not interested in roads and they are not interested in jobs in North Queensland.

Of course, I come to the issue of the stadium. Who delivered the stadium for Townsville? The Palaszczuk government! We believe in North Queensland. We do not sit around making excuses for our mates in Canberra. We stand up for Queensland. We will always stand up for Queensland, while those opposite make excuses for Barnaby and Malcolm. On water feasibility, they make excuses for the most incompetent deputy prime minister we have seen in a few decades. They are making excuses for diverting nearly \$150 million in Queensland road money to the Northern Territory. Who stood up for

Queensland then? The Palaszczuk government! Who sold Queensland out and justified it with their Canberra mates? The opposition! They talk big, but they sell out. That is their attitude towards Queensland, whether it is on water feasibility funding, the stadium or road funding. They talk big, but in the end they hold onto the coattails of their mates in Canberra. That approach did not work for them for the three years that they were in government and they lost the most catastrophic election in Australian political history, yet they have the same attitude and strategy now. I say to members opposite: good luck with that at the next election, because it really worked the first time.

A lot of projects have missed out because of the money being diverted into the Northern Territory, such as the Bowen Developmental Road, the Cairns access road, the Gregory Developmental Road, the Flinders Highway and the Burke Developmental Road at Karumba. They did not stand up for those projects. They would rather back their mate Barnaby and see the money go into the Northern Territory than stand up for Queensland. This government will stand up for roads, water infrastructure and clean energy projects in North Queensland. We will deliver the jobs and we will deliver the investment.

(Time expired)