




Speech By
Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Infrastructure

 **Mr RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (12.42 pm): True to form, this lazy, confidence-busting, negative and misleading opposition is at it again, and we heard it today during the member for Nanango's contribution when she was talking about alleged failures of this government to invest in infrastructure and create jobs. What more can be said to the contrary, and I will get to that in a few moments? I wanted to highlight a fundamental flaw in what the member for Nanango said this morning. She was referring to an article in the *Brisbane Times* relating to RPS Group analysis of infrastructure spending in Queensland. I note that the member for Nanango—whether it was laziness or negativity or just being misleading—did not get through the article and see some of the conclusions that RPS Group was talking about in respect of Queensland infrastructure spending. I note in particular that the RPS Group's Regional Technical Director-Economics, Mark Wallace, who is quoted in this article—only a couple of paragraphs down—said—

It's a combination of the political climate over the past six years and how difficult it has become for governments, particularly at a state and local government level, to borrow money.

He continues—

That's a huge issue, as is the fact the federal government has basically not been in Queensland for six years.

There's been virtually no expenditure, no major infrastructure expenditure, and now we're in a situation where any major infrastructure expenditure from the federal government is tied to asset sales.

Whether or not those asset sales are good for Queensland is a bit irrelevant as part of the strategy; it's just ideological extortion that's happening at the moment.

If the member opposite is going to quote an article, she should make sure she reads the article first because she might get the proper conclusions that are being communicated in the article.

That gives me a good opportunity to talk about some of the great things that this government is doing not only in Morayfield but throughout Queensland. Last week I was honoured to be the guest speaker at the Moreton Bay Business Network meeting at Caboolture. It is always a great pleasure to meet with members of the business network and share with them the details about how the Palaszczuk government is supporting economic opportunity and jobs in the Caboolture region and around Queensland. Members of the business network were very pleased to hear that a number of local projects funded by the Palaszczuk government were progressing very well and, in light of the positive contribution that the Palaszczuk government is making in the Caboolture region, I am very happy to outline to members opposite—who think nothing is happening in Queensland at the moment—some of those projects and how they are creating economic activity and jobs in the Caboolture region.

Firstly, the Caboolture River Bridge upgrade project is proceeding very well. This joint \$18 million funded project involves replacing the end-of-life southbound bridge on Morayfield Road. This bridge is approximately 92 years old and I am told is one of the oldest bridges in Queensland. The new bridge will be wider, higher, include a pedestrian footbridge and an increased flood immunity and construction is due to take 12 months. It is important to recognise that there is significant economic benefit associated with this bridge upgrade project. While some past premiers have measured economic activity by counting the number of cranes on the skyline, I like to reinforce the benefit to local businesses of local infrastructure projects by counting the number of chiko rolls and cans of Coke that can be purchased from local food outlets. The importance of this bridge upgrade project is that it is not just \$18 million worth of concrete and bitumen; it is also \$18 million of construction workers buying chiko rolls and cans of Coke from local food outlets.

But wait, this government is doing more for the Caboolture region in respect of that bridge upgrade project because we have also managed to secure, in conjunction with those construction works, the installation of flashing light school zone signs at Caboolture Special School, emergency vehicle priority technology to be installed at local traffic lights and traffic monitoring cameras installed at key locations. There is more happening in the Caboolture region. Other projects include the Caboolture Hospital upgrade, the Morayfield train station upgrade, the Caboolture Special School upgrade, the Caboolture Sports Football Club new playing fields project and the Burpengary State School hall project—all things in our region in Queensland creating jobs and delivering new public infrastructure.