




Speech By
Andrew Cripps

MEMBER FOR HINCHINBROOK

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Budget

 **Mr CRIPPS** (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (2.33 pm): In the lead-up to the 2017-18 state budget there will be a lot of speculation about what will or will not be in it, what has been funded and what has been left out, and what has been cut and what has been boosted. There will be wish lists and doubtless on the day we will find out which hollow logs and biscuit tins Treasurer Pitt will raid this year to prop up the Palaszczuk government.

I will certainly have plenty to say about this year's budget when it is actually handed down in a couple of weeks time. However, before Labor gets carried away with making new promises in its third budget, on behalf of the people of Cardwell I would like to ask the Palaszczuk government to actually deliver the things it promised in its first budget two years ago. In July 2015 I made representations to the then transport minister, Jackie Trad, on behalf of the people of Cardwell asking for the north coast rail crossings on Liverpool Street and Brasenose Street to be upgraded. There have been serious incidents on these crossings in the past and Cardwell residents continue to have concerns about the risk they represent.

I was pleased when in September 2015 I received a response from Minister Trad advising that following a safety assessment in 2014, Queensland Rail had gained funding in the 2015-16 capital plan to upgrade the level crossings on Liverpool Street and Brasenose Street. This news was welcomed by the people of Cardwell on whose behalf I had made representations. Then we waited for these upgrades to happen and then we waited some more. After 12 months of waiting and after the 2015-16 financial year came and went, in July 2016 I wrote to the transport minister again, but by this time it was Stirling Hinchliffe.

After months of waiting without a response I tabled a written question on notice in the House in September 2016. When the answer came back from Minister Hinchliffe in November 2016 he confirmed that the funding had been provided for in the 2015-16 budget and even let us know that a contract to upgrade the two rail crossings in Cardwell had apparently been awarded in June 2016. The minister also advised the upgrade would be completed in the first half of 2017. Then we waited and then we waited some more.

Now here we are at the end of May 2017, a month away from the end of the 2016-17 financial year and a couple of weeks away from Labor's 2017-18 budget and absolutely nothing has happened at the north coast railway crossings on Liverpool Street and Brasenose Street in Cardwell, despite it being promised in the 2015-16 financial year. Now the portfolio is back in the hands of Minister Trad, ironically, after Minister Hinchliffe made a complete dog's breakfast of running the passenger train services in South-East Queensland.

However, before Curtis Pitt gets too carried away with his third budget, on behalf of the people of Cardwell I would like to politely ask the Palaszczuk government for the third time to please deliver the things it promised to do in its first budget but has not.