




Speech By
Andrew Powell

MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE

Record of Proceedings, 14 June 2017

MOTION: ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (6.01 pm): I move—

That this House condemns the Palaszczuk government for cutting over \$400 million of road infrastructure funding across Queensland.

If Queenslanders need any better example of the con job that this budget is, they need look no further than the budget as it relates to roads. We have heard from all of those opposite that this budget is about jobs. The Leader of the Opposition, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and the shadow Treasurer have all shown that to be the con job that it is, with no growth in jobs over the forward years and no change to the unemployment rate here in the state of Queensland.

If we talk about infrastructure, those opposite will talk about how they are building Queensland and how they are building infrastructure across the state. Unless you live on the Gold Coast and have the fortunate opportunity of hosting the Commonwealth Games next year, or you live in a metropolitan region and have the benefit of having Jackie Trad, the member for South Brisbane, as your local member, you are going backwards.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr POWELL: I take that interjection from the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. I am happy to prove her wrong. LNP members in the Darling Downs region—the member for Toowoomba South, the member for Toowoomba North, the member for Condamine, the member for Warrego and the member for Southern Downs—will be telling their constituents that their electorates will be \$134 million worse off in the coming year because it is being spent in the electorate of South Brisbane building Cross River Rail.

In Far North Queensland I want to know what the member for Barron River and the Treasurer himself are going to say to their constituents, to the member for Cook and to the member for Hinchinbrook why \$34 million less is being spent in this coming year than last year.

In Fitzroy, what are the members for Keppel, Gladstone and Rockhampton going to say to their constituents when they wake up and realise that in the next financial year \$26.7 million less is being spent on roads than the year before? In Mackay-Whitsunday, the members for Mirani and Mackay can explain to their constituents why \$16 million less will be spent next year than has been spent this year.

On the north coast—your and my region, Mr Speaker—we will be telling our constituents that this year \$63 million less will be spent on our roads than in the current financial year. I ask the members for Pumicestone, Murrumba, Pine Rivers, Kallangur, Redcliffe and Morayfield why in 2014-15 under the LNP government \$761 million was being spent on our roads while next year \$236 million is being spent. That is a whopping reduction of \$525 million.

In the northern region there is \$17.7 million less. That has gone to South Brisbane from the north-west region. Can the members for Townsville, Mundingburra and Thuringowa explain to the member for Mount Isa and his constituents why they are spending \$15.2 million less this year and why it is being spent in the electorate of South Brisbane?

In the south-west, the LNP members for Warrego and Gregory will be telling their constituents that \$7.7 million less is being spent this coming financial year than currently. In the Wide Bay-Burnett—I know that we will be hearing from the member for Burnett shortly—why have the members for Bundaberg and Maryborough failed in their advocacy to their government, which is spending \$85 million less in the coming financial year and which is being spent here in South Brisbane?

If the government wants proof, it only has to look at the capital statements from last year and this year. I will even point out the pages for the Minister for Main Roads, starting on page 119 of last year's Capital Statement and starting on page 123 of this year's Capital Statement. Those opposite have one of two options tonight: they can support this motion that condemns the government for pulling \$400 million out of the road infrastructure budget for the coming financial year or they can admit that in their own budget papers they have fudged the figures. They have conned Queenslanders and fudged the figures. There are two options: support the motion or admit that they have fudged their own budget figures.