



Speech By  
**Andrew Powell**


**MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE**

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Record of Proceedings, 15 June 2017

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Budget, Roads**

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (10.21 am): Today the Palaszczuk Labor government's con job of a budget stands condemned. Last night the parliament took the extraordinary step of condemning the Premier, her ministers and this budget for the abysmal road infrastructure spend. Queenslanders have every right to be angry that this government is not investing in their much needed roads. Compared to Labor's own budget from last financial year—which, by the way, was also an absolute failure for roads and transport infrastructure—we have seen a further \$400 million ripped out of roads and transport infrastructure across the state. That is nearly \$85 million ripped out of the Wide Bay-Burnett region; \$15 million worth of road cuts out of the north-west—I wonder how the member for Mount Isa is feeling about that; \$7 million out of the south-west; and closer to home for you and for me, Mr Speaker, the Sunshine Coast and Moreton Bay have lost \$63 million in the TMR budget. Mr Speaker, you and I both know just how far that funding would go to improving dangerous roads in the Sunshine Coast hinterland. There are more cuts across the state: \$17 million from Northern Queensland; \$34 million from Far North Queensland; \$16 million cut in Mackay-Whitsunday; \$26 million in the Fitzroy region; and \$134 million slashed in the Darling Downs—we heard last night from the member for Toowoomba South the impact that will have on his community, on his constituents, on the roads in that region. All up, it is a \$400 million drop in funding from last year.

If we compare that to the LNP's spending on roads it is even worse. It is down \$528 million. It is a kick in the guts for Queenslanders outside of the Gold Coast and Brisbane because we know in many towns and cities across the state transport infrastructure and roads means jobs, it means getting products to market, it means safety and getting loved ones home to their families. This government stands condemned because it has ripped road funding out of regional Queensland to pad the Deputy Premier's inner-city electorate. Regional Labor members in this place must front up to their communities and explain why \$400 million in road upgrades and transport infrastructure was ripped out of their regions by the Premier. Queenslanders know that only the LNP has the track record and the experience to build the roads, the bridges and the dams this state desperately needs.