




Speech By
Hon. Curtis Pitt

MEMBER FOR MULGRAVE

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Queensland Liberal National Party; Federal Budget

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (10.45 am): Only the truly mediocre are always at their best. Those opposite are very lazy. The member for Nanango is a case in point. If it is worth saying once, it is worth saying again: when the Leader of the Opposition was Campbell Newman's treasurer he actually bragged about cutting the capital expenditure budget. In his 2012-13 budget speech he said, 'The capital program needs to return to more manageable levels. Apart from reconstruction, the capital program will be smaller than in previous years.'

We saw last week the latest effort from those opposite to claim infrastructure spending in the Queensland state accounts was not at its peak. As we know, capital spending is outlined in the state budget in financial years. What did the lazy, opportunistic opposition do? They attacked us based on calculations on calendar years. They used figures that included state and local government capital spends. Why mislead people like that? That is the very, very lazy opposition led by the very, very lazy Leader of the Opposition. It starts at the top and it goes down from there.

We know that the federal budget is being delivered tonight. Why are they not trying to make a case for the federal government to do more in terms of Queensland infrastructure? What they are saying is that the federal government is doing more than we are—really. What they are doing is covering up yet again for their political masters in Canberra in terms of what they are expecting not to be in the budget tonight. We know that they are apologists for those who continue to short-change Queenslanders and they are going to do it again tonight in the budget. The Leader of the Opposition waved on through Joe Hockey's cuts. He said he would stand up to them, but did he? No, he did not; far from it. They have a very good track record of not standing up for Queensland.

When it comes to today's contributions—and the shadow Treasurer will be on his feet next; talk about those people always being at their best but being very mediocre—we will hear another episode in their long-running serial drama which is the LNP's campaign to talk down Queensland. They have been doing that since 2012 and before. They have a very easy tactic. It is: No. 1, talk down Queensland; No. 2, talk down the Queensland economy; No. 3, talk down confidence in Queensland. All the while, they are hoping to take the easy and lazy way of sliding into office without doing any work.

Have we seen any policies from those opposite when it comes to the economy? Have we seen any policies from those opposite? No, we have not. That is really the question here. The member for Indooroopilly will be on his feet next. What is he going to say? Let us hope he is going to say, one, that he is going to stand with us and fight for federal government funding and, two, if he cannot mouth the words that the LNP will not sell our income-generating assets then we cannot believe a single thing that they say.

(Time expired)