




Speech By
Hon. Curtis Pitt

MEMBER FOR MULGRAVE

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Federal Budget

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (2.50 pm): The member for Clayfield is clearly a man going places, and the sooner he goes the better. It was very interesting to hear him talk about the federal budget being a fair budget, because the only benchmark he has is that of his own budgets. We all know he thinks they were really fair even though 14,000 people got sacked in his first budget. His benchmark for success is his own budget. His speech today was sent up by royal carrier pigeon from his political masters in Canberra. He has delivered the lines faithfully. Maybe he should have read it before he delivered it.

Scott Morrison's second budget is a budget which is big on promises and short on funds. Budgets are a bit like the State of Origin, although unlike the State of Origin where Queensland usually wins we did not win this time. We came second to New South Wales and to some other states, quite frankly, which are not even normally in the running. The Palaszczuk government's frontbench—the front rowers here—have taken the ball up hard, making sure they are playing very strongly for Team Queensland. What happened to the people who claimed to be on Team Queensland? What happened to federal wingers George Christensen, Michelle Landry, Ken O'Dowd? By the way, they are all playing on the right wing, not the left wing. Those front wingers have not been able to stand up for Team Queensland. They should get kicked off the team. Just like the others, they were put on the bench—just like Trevor Evans, Jane Prentice and Peter Dutton.

They have all been put on the bench while Sydney, Melbourne and Perth all scored money for their railway lines. What did we get for the Cross River Rail? We got nothing. The member for Clayfield talks about a business case for Cross River Rail. He has admitted that he had no business case for 1 William Street and that it was done on the back of an envelope. He has no right to come in here and talk about business cases at any stage. In Rugby League when you score a try, that is the goal but you also need to convert. The federal government has a very poor track record when it comes to conversions. If we look at the NAIF, a \$5 billion fund, how many money has gone out the door? Nothing. They cannot convert an idea into an actual proposition for funding which delivers actual jobs.

Last night's budget was a thinly veiled effort by the Turnbull government to try to bury the ghosts of Joe Hockey and Tony Abbott. To say that this budget was 'Labor-lite' I think is very incorrect, because there is nothing Labor about maintaining cuts to health. There is nothing Labor about putting \$40 million less into skilling this year than last year. There is nothing Labor about not making tough decisions on things like tax reform. That is not the Labor way. This is certainly not a 'Labor-lite' budget; it is a political exercise. It is smoke and mirrors. Over the coming days we will continue to expose Scott Morrison for the budget that he has handed down.