




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Regional and Rural Queensland, Jobs

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (10.28 am): There is no question that regional and rural Queensland is hurting. There have been 43,000 jobs lost out of rural and regional Queensland. It is no wonder that the regions are hurting. They are hurting because there has been \$3 billion less in infrastructure under this incompetent, do-nothing, Labor government.

This government has taken it upon itself to take \$3 billion out of the Queensland economy, yet it wonders why 43,000 people are out of work in rural and regional Queensland. The answer is because of this incompetent do-nothing Labor government! This government has no idea where rural and regional Queensland is. Let me give them a tip: Yamanto, on the Cunningham Highway, is 35 kilometres from here. It is not in regional Queensland. However, the Yamanto project was within Building Queensland's supposed pipeline. Can members guess what this incompetent government has done? It has taken it back through its pipeline; it has not progressed it forward! Six months ago that project was ready for a government investment decision. What did this Deputy Premier and this incompetent government do? They actually put it back through the pipeline and said, 'No, we need another secret business case in a glossy brochure for the Deputy Premier to put on her shelf. Don't worry about spending money in rural and regional Queensland!'

That goes to another point: this government slashed the Royalties for the Regions program, which was delivering projects such as water treatment plants, overtaking lanes, other road projects and wooden bridge projects. Those projects were keeping regional people in jobs. That program was working. Those opposite have now finished with all of their media conferences to open LNP projects, but they have forgotten that they actually need something going all the time. This government delivered—what was it, Minister?—one per cent of regional projects within its first budget. This government needs to stop reviewing, it needs to start doing and it needs to give jobs to rural and regional Queenslanders.