



Speech By  
**Deb Frecklington**


**MEMBER FOR NANANGO**

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Record of Proceedings, 10 May 2017

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Federal Budget, Infrastructure**

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.53 pm): The federal government has to do the heavy lifting in infrastructure because this incompetent Labor government—

**Mr Nicholls** interjected.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I take that interjection. Those opposite have done nothing for infrastructure—I outlined that very clearly yesterday in this House—because they have an incompetent infrastructure minister. Nothing sums up the do-nothing approach of this Palaszczuk Labor government better than its mishandling of Cross River Rail. The message from the federal Treasurer last night was clear: this is an unprecedented infrastructure budget, with \$75 billion worth of infrastructure spending.

**Ms Palaszczuk** interjected.

**Mr Nicholls:** Be a bit more furious. That will work for you!

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Thank you, Leader of the Opposition. Thank you, Premier.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I take that interjection from the Leader of the Opposition. It takes more than being furious to get something done on infrastructure. What we saw from the federal Treasurer last night is an infrastructure budget: \$75 billion with over \$8.4 billion for inland rail. It is a nation-building project that will put Queensland front and centre for decades to come. There is \$10 billion on the table for other rail projects, and yet all this state government needs to do is put together a business case that actually stacks up.

Instead of putting together a robust and defensible business case, the Premier and her incompetent infrastructure minister have put together a weak business case for Cross River Rail. Those are not my words. A 'weak business case' are the words of independent economist Gene Tunny. Today independent economist Gene Tunny went on to say 'the business case for Cross River Rail has never been compelling'. He further said 'Cross River Rail appears to be such a marginal project'. His plea to this do-nothing government is to release the secret business case.

I know the Treasurer himself likes to quote Gene Tunny. Gene Tunny then went on to say that keeping the business case secret is—

... against the best interests of the Government itself and the wider community. Public scrutiny of a draft business case would have helped strengthen the final business case.

If Labor want to get something done in this term of government, then release the business case for Cross River Rail. Queenslanders, the federal government and independent economists do not trust this government, which is completely addicted to secrecy and cover-ups.