




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

Record of Proceedings, 11 May 2017

MOTION

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Infrastructure

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (5.15 pm): I move—
That this House condemns the Palaszczuk government's do-nothing approach to delivering infrastructure for Queensland.

Labor's softly, softly approach to infrastructure just simply is not cutting it in this great state of Queensland. Doing nothing is not working and it is simple: the state economy is hurting. The regions are hurting with unprecedented unemployment rates such as the area that you, Mr Deputy Speaker Millar, represent with its very high youth unemployment rate. Regional councils are not able to put on extra crews because this Labor government has decided to put a freeze on the infrastructure spend. Obviously this government has the 'all-too-hard basket', the 'do-nothing basket' and the 'let's not do anything basket'. During debate on a motion in this House on which I spoke the Minister for Main Roads put everything in the all-too-hard basket in relation to the Northern Australia roads fund. He also put everything in the too-hard basket or did not want to look at—or maybe it went into that email account—anything in relation to the beef roads fund as well. All the minister needed to do was respond to the letter from the federal government saying that it has the money, but, no, it took that minister a while to decide to get it from his inbox and actually apply for that money for those much needed roadworks in the north and Western Queensland.

There is no greater example of a do-nothing government go-slow box than the funding for Rookwood Weir. Federal members are literally screaming out for the state government to do something but there has not been an answer from it at all.

Mr Hart: They went slow on the feasibility study.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I take that interjection. It did go slow on the feasibility study. I think Beattie in about 2009 said that it was shovel-ready. It is a bit like the Cross River Rail—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Millar): Members, I would like to hear the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker! It is exactly like the Cross River Rail project at the moment. The federal government puts \$10 billion on the table and all it wants to see is a business case that stacks up. Guess what? This Deputy Premier has not been able to provide a business case that stacks up, and this government knows it. With its cap in hand, this week it was waiting to have the federal government stump up holus-bolus because this government has not been able to plan and is unable to get its infrastructure spend out the door. In the last two years the minister opposite has underspent for the Queensland economy by \$3 billion—\$3 billion less on infrastructure!

An opposition member: No big projects.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I take that interjection: no big projects and nothing it can talk about—absolutely nothing!

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Members on both sides, I would like to hear the deputy opposition leader.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I take the interjection. The only project the Deputy Premier is able to yell out about is a federally funded project.

An opposition member: The Toowoomba range, the Bruce Highway.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I am getting to those. It is obvious that there are no projects at all that this Deputy Premier or the Premier are able to deliver. They have squirrelled away the \$850 million from last year's budget. We hear that the Premier's department wants it for the regional infrastructure fund. This week, in her mind, the Deputy Premier has been sorely let down, because she is unable to produce a business case. She hides behind that but, obviously, that business case does not stack up. If it did, it would be released so that the people of Queensland—

Mr Hart interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I take that interjection. It does not have any trains in it, either. What did the LNP do when it was in government? We made a \$10 billion investment in the Bruce Highway. We put \$4.4 billion into the new generation rolling stock. We put \$1.6 billion into the Toowoomba second range crossing. We put in 10 new schools in high-growth areas. There was \$450 million for the government wireless network. There was \$1 billion for the Gateway Upgrade North Project. All of those projects were done under an LNP government. After 2½ years in government, this government is not able to deliver for Queensland.