




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

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MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Cross River Rail

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.48 am): Last week we saw this state's worst infrastructure minister dodging and weaving around the facts regarding Cross River Rail. The member for South Brisbane only needs to look in the mirror if she wants someone to blame for the inaction on Cross River Rail. The minister simply has not done her homework with the Cross River Rail business case. She has hidden her secret taxes. She has bodgied up the patronage figures, but independent Infrastructure Australia still thinks there are holes in the business case you could drive a train through. Inadequate is what her business case was called. Inadequate is what Infrastructure Australia called this business case. We brought this to light through leaked parts of the business case that we had seen through the estimates process last year. A full 12 months later and this incompetent minister still has not been able to line her ducks up in a row to get this project right.

She has bungled the project from the start and then had the hide to go on ABC Radio to try to rewrite history over her plan to slug Queenslanders with higher taxes and charges to fund the pipedream through a half-baked business case. The Deputy Premier is in denial. This is what the Deputy Premier said on Steve Austin's program, 'I think what is happening here, Steve, is a lot of political spin and game playing.' 'What the officials are saying is very different from what the politicians are saying on this,' she continued. However, she was the one caught out playing politics with Cross River Rail with independent Infrastructure Australia releasing a statement saying—

IA has a number of outstanding concerns with the Cross River Rail business case and we have advised the Queensland government of these concerns.

What do we see the Deputy Premier do here in this House today? We see her not get her own way, so she stands in this House and starts to attack the independent Infrastructure Australia.

It is this Deputy Premier who has been caught out misleading Queenslanders over her sloppy attempt at a business case. If the minister thinks her pet project stacks up, then there is one simple thing she can do. She can put it out there; she can release it to put Queenslanders' minds at ease. She should table the business case in this parliament and let Queenslanders decide whether the project stacks up. Remember, it was the member for Inala who said in 2013 that Cross River Rail was 'shovel ready'. That has never been further from the truth. Two weeks ago we announced in this parliament that they have not even got their own state government approvals for this project. All the government has achieved in two years has been to set up a \$50 million bureaucracy and send out glossy brochures. Cross River Rail has been worse off under this bungling Deputy Premier than it was under the member for Inala, and no-one would have thought that could ever happen.

We know this government has no plan for infrastructure. Queenslanders know that only the LNP has a track record to build the congestion-busting infrastructure we desperately need. We have seen a media report today that polling commissioned by Infrastructure Partnerships Australia, the Infrastructure Association and the Property Council found 62 per cent of Queenslanders believe investment in and

development of infrastructure is poor or very poor. Dissatisfaction was the greatest in the state's north at 67 per cent with 62 per cent of people unhappy in the south-east corner. Is there any wonder that Queenslanders are dissatisfied with this Labor government's lack of investment in infrastructure? We have seen a \$3 billion cut to our LNP infrastructure program. In Townsville Labor cut \$180 million from the budget just this year. In Cairns it is \$260 million. In Wide Bay it is \$400 million. These cuts to infrastructure are why Queenslanders are hurting with fewer jobs.

The majority of Queenslanders rightfully believe Annastacia Palaszczuk is not doing enough. This is a do-nothing government. This is a government that has failed to plan. This is a government that has failed to develop and, most importantly, this is a government that has failed to invest in infrastructure.