




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR NANANGO

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Cross River Rail

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (10.22 am): This do-nothing Labor government is full of false promises. It will say and do anything other than run on its record. That is because Labor does not have a record it can run on. Labor has failed to invest in the infrastructure Queenslanders need. Labor has invested less in infrastructure than any other Queensland government in history. Labor has failed to deliver 20 per cent—or \$2 billion—of the infrastructure it promised back in its first budget. Labor failed to deliver 99 per cent of the infrastructure it promised under the anaemic Building our Regions fund. Labor has failed to fully fund any new major infrastructure project in either its first or its second budget. That is Labor's record on infrastructure. It simply cannot deliver.

Let us put on the table the facts about Labor's pet project, Cross River Rail. The true costs of this project are \$14.5 billion—\$5.4 billion for capital costs, \$4.5 billion for operating costs and another \$4.5 billion for ancillary costs. I table the pages from the executive summary of Labor's Cross River Rail business case that show these costs equal \$14.5 billion.

Tabled paper: Executive Summary, Cross River Rail—Detailed Business Case [\[896\]](#).

That is not the LNP's estimate of costs; it is Labor's own estimates for this project. If the media reports today are true and all of Queensland is funding an additional \$2 billion for this project, where is the other \$11.3 billion coming from? How is Labor planning to fill that \$11.3 billion black hole? Queenslanders have a right to know what Labor is signing them up for.

Independent economists have described the business case as weak. Both independent economists and the LNP have consistently been calling for a release of the business case. This investment is simply too big to get wrong. A \$14.5 billion price tag needs to be properly understood. We have seen it before with Labor's billion dollar water grid—dams without pipes, pipes without dams—and the wasteful investment that has seen bulk water prices increase by 350 per cent. We have seen it before with Labor's gold plating of the electricity network, contributing to price increases over the decade of over 109 per cent. This Labor government needs to release the business case so that Queenslanders know what they are paying for.