



Speech By  
**Deb Frecklington**


**MEMBER FOR NANANGO**

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**MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Palaszczuk Labor Government, Infrastructure**

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.49 am): I acknowledge my husband, Jason, who is sitting in the gallery. It is good to see him here.

Labor's softly-softly approach is failing all Queenslanders. Doing nothing is simply not working and the economy is hurting. Labor has savagely cut infrastructure spending in Queensland, sapping confidence and costing jobs.

**Mr Harper:** So you do not read the paper? \$662 million of infrastructure committed.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Again, it has cut infrastructure spending in Queensland. This has sapped confidence and cost jobs. The shadow Treasurer talked about the 30,000 jobs lost across Queensland under this Palaszczuk Labor government and about the fact that regional youth unemployment is sitting at 44 per cent. This figure would be disgraceful in a Third World country. That outback youth unemployment is over 44 per cent is absolutely disgraceful.

In its first year in office Labor slashed infrastructure spending by more than \$2 billion. Over the next four years, infrastructure spending has been cut by almost \$3 billion. The Labor government is great at delivering bureaucracies but not at getting infrastructure projects off the ground. In its last 2½ years in office it has not fully funded one new major infrastructure project. Instead of leading the way in job creation and job security, we are falling behind all other states.

Only the LNP has a plan to build the roads, bridges and dams that we need. After scrapping the LNP's Royalties for Regions fund, which delivered over \$700 million in infrastructure—all regional infrastructure—Labor has failed to deliver. I see 'Mr One per cent', the Minister for State Development, in the chamber. In the first year he delivered one per cent of the Building our Regions fund. Labor promised to spend \$85 million in last year's budget but got less than \$400,000 out the door. There is no greater failure than those figures. Labor failed to deliver \$2 billion of infrastructure that was promised in its first budget. It has failed to completely fund any new projects.

Labor's own budget papers forecast savage cuts to infrastructure, including an almost \$3 billion reduction in capital spending over the next four years. The regions have been hit the worst. Labor's first budget slashed \$145 million in infrastructure spending in Cairns. In its second budget it slashed \$120 million in infrastructure spending in Cairns. Infrastructure spending per person in Cairns—the Treasurer's own electorate—is \$322 below the statewide average and is dramatically down from where it was under the LNP. In Townsville it is no better. In the first year Labor slashed \$220 million. In the second year it slashed \$180 million. Infrastructure spending per person in Townsville has been cut by \$823. In the first year Labor slashed \$80 million from infrastructure spending in Mackay. In the second year it slashed \$120 million. Infrastructure spending in the Wide Bay region was completely annihilated by this Palaszczuk Labor government. It is spending \$400 million less on infrastructure in that area than

the LNP had. In its first budget Labor cut \$197 million from infrastructure spending in Toowoomba. Shamefully, in the second budget it cut \$223 million from infrastructure spending in Toowoomba. Behind each of these cuts is job losses and lost opportunities for not only all of regional Queensland but also all of Queensland.

We are happy to stand by our record. We invested in infrastructure projects—\$8.6 billion in the Bruce Highway, \$4.4 billion in New Generation Rollingstock and \$1.6 billion in the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing. I could go on and on. We made sure we delivered infrastructure for all of Queensland.