




Speech By
Tim Nicholls

MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 10 May 2017

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Federal Budget

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.46 pm): The federal Treasurer has delivered a fair and responsible—

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. I might invite the Leader of the Opposition to start again. Would you like to start again, Leader of the Opposition?

Mr NICHOLLS: Thank you very much. I might need some extra time, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: We will see what happens. We will start again.

Mr NICHOLLS: The federal Treasurer has delivered a fair, responsible and pragmatic budget that is being welcomed by Queenslanders while exposing the rank hypocrisy and underperformance of a do-nothing Labor Palaszczuk government—an approach by Labor that has seen 30,000 jobs lost in the last year alone, an approach by Labor that has seen unemployment rates for young people in Townsville above 21 per cent, above 20 per cent in Cairns and Wide Bay, and above 40 per cent in the outback. What has the federal coalition done? It has stepped in with \$24 million over four years to establish the Rural and Regional Enterprise Scholarships program.

On infrastructure, game-changing inland rail is ready to go—a nation-building project that will put Queensland and regional Queensland at the forefront of interstate trade and commerce. Queensland also stands to benefit, if it were not for a do-nothing Palaszczuk government, from the \$10 billion rail fund, with projects such as the Brisbane Metro and the Nambour to Beerburrum rail duplication. They are two congestion busters that we will not hear them talk about—not a word. They are strangely quiet on that but are set to benefit from it.

What we have seen from this do-nothing government is talk, talk, talk and whinge, whinge, whinge with no, no, no action. They whinge about Cross River Rail. I simply say that, if the business case is so good, why are they still hiding it? Why are Queenslanders still in the dark?

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, members. I am being reasonably tolerant but I would urge you not to—

Ms Palaszczuk interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, Premier.

Mr NICHOLLS: All the federal government says is, 'Give us a business case that we can rely on.' Why should they do that? Let us look at the history. Child safety in Queensland: fail. South-East Queensland rail transport: fail. Youth detention in Queensland?

Opposition members: Fail!

Mr NICHOLLS: Fail. Water infrastructure?

Opposition members: Fail!

Mr NICHOLLS: Fail. What about crime in North Queensland?

Opposition members: Fail!

Mr NICHOLLS: Fail. What about the Health payroll system?

Opposition members: Fail!

Mr NICHOLLS: Fail. What about the toxic foam spill at Pinkenba?

Opposition members: Fail!

Mr NICHOLLS: Jobs: fail. This is a government that has failed Queenslanders. Today's *Financial Review* puts the lie to the claims made by the Treasurer and the Premier—\$13.6 billion, second only to New South Wales. Labor is failing Queenslanders. This do-nothing government is costing jobs and infrastructure. The cost of living continues to increase. Labor has no answers.