



Speech By  
**Tim Nicholls**


**MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD**

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## **PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

### **Budget**

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.01 am): By yesterday this impotent budget was dead on arrival. So bad was this budget that the government could not even get two days of news out of it. That is hardly surprising when we look at who delivered it. Just like this government, the budget is bereft of ideas, it is bereft of big thinking and it lacks vision. The budget has been framed around just two jobs: the job of the Premier and the job of the Deputy Premier, both desperate to cling to power after 2½ years of doing sweet Fanny Adams.

Contrary to the spin of the Premier and her ministers, stakeholder groups have also seen through the budget. Here is what the RACQ said. The RACQ said motorists have been 'duped'. AgForce called the budget 'underwhelming'. The Property Council said Labor was playing a dangerous game with new taxes that could be 'economically damaging'. CCIQ said there was nothing in the budget for small business, the backbone of the Queensland economy.

Is it any wonder the business community has such little faith in this Labor government when we have a Treasurer who has been airbrushed out of budget week by his own party? The Treasurer has gone from being the 'Mythbuster', to 'up Pitt Creek', to 'Captain Risky', to now the 'Invisible Man'. What little attention remained on the budget on Thursday was stolen away by the constant distraction that is the member for Yeerongpilly and the use and deletion of his private email account. As if the previous allegations of potentially 'corrupt conduct' were not bad enough, it has now been alleged the member has been using his private account to communicate with his director-general—a charge, if proven, would be both a moral and ethical breach. Tellingly, the minister refused to address the allegations in parliament yesterday and the Premier adopted her usual approach when asked, and that is to do absolutely nothing.

To top the week off, this Labor government suffered yet another embarrassing defeat on the floor of the parliament. The Queensland parliament passed a motion condemning this government for slashing \$400 million from road infrastructure funding across this state. The whole parliament condemned this government for slashing \$400 million from road funding. This is historic and shows just how bad this budget truly is.

Labor has again shown this week that it simply is not up to the job of governing Queensland. The people of Queensland deserve better than the sideshow that is this fake government. They deserve a government that listens, plans and acts, and that is the government that the LNP will offer.

(Time expired)