




Speech By
Andrew Powell

MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE

Record of Proceedings, 15 May 2018

MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Infrastructure

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (2.26 pm): I do not know what it is about this chamber, but I always seem to have the pleasure and honour of following the member for Stretton. Every time I feel as though I have been struck by a wet lettuce leaf—a full blown slap with a wet lettuce leaf. I do not know how I can just pick myself up and recover—

Mr Bleijie: I will get you the tea towel.

Mr POWELL: Thank you, member for Kawana. I will try to do it for the people of Glass House. As I travel around Queensland I hear two things. The first is, 'No way Palaszczuk.' As the Leader of the Opposition said, it is quite clear that our farmers from rural and regional Queensland are sending that message. The other thing I hear is, 'Just build it.' Of course they are referring to the Palaszczuk Labor government's infrastructure go-slow.

In next month's budget Queenslanders want to see infrastructure getting built right across the state not just in inner-city Brisbane. The Labor government over the course of four budgets has slashed infrastructure spending by \$3 billion a year. That has cost Queenslanders 30,000 jobs over those three years. The infrastructure cuts in regional Queensland have been particularly savage with \$2 billion worth of cuts each year. The state's roads budget has been cut by more than \$400 million in one fell swoop.

The message to the Deputy Premier is very clear: stop using Cross River Rail as an excuse not to build anything else. The Deputy Premier threw her toys out of the cot when it comes to Cross River Rail and sent the \$10 million back to Prime Minister Turnbull and said, 'We will go it alone.' Go-ahead and do it. Go-ahead and build Cross River Rail using state funds as was promised. Stop using it as an excuse for building nothing else in this state. On the other hand, the federal coalition budget gave a much needed boost. The question now is whether the Premier is capable of putting politics aside, like they have in Victoria under a Labor government, to benefit all of Queensland.

Stop the petty politics. Quite frankly, Queenslanders do not want to hear about who is funding what and by how much. For those opposite, here is a case study from history. When a federal Labor treasurer came to the LNP in government and said, 'I have 50 per cent funding for Cooroy to Curra stage A,' we did not quibble over the amount; we matched them and we delivered that infrastructure. Those opposite can do the same. They can work with the Turnbull government, which is injecting \$3.3 billion in upgrades for the Bruce Highway, including \$800 million in new upgrades from Pine Rivers to Caloundra; \$800 million to upgrade between Cooroy and Curra, bypassing Gympie; \$150 million to upgrade the Bruce Highway at the Dohles Rocks Road interchange—

Ms Boyd: Nothing new.

Mr POWELL: I hear the member for Pine Rivers. Clearly she does not want the necessary infrastructure that will assist her residents—Dohles Rocks Road.

Ms Boyd: It's outside my electorate.

Mr POWELL: 'It's not in my electorate. It won't help my constituents.'

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order, member for Pine Rivers!

Mr POWELL: I take that interjection from the member for Pine Rivers. It is not in her electorate so she really could not care about the fact that all of her constituents are going to benefit from an improved Dohles Rocks Road interchange. There is also another \$1.6 billion funding boost up and down the coast. This means that since 2013, when we signed up to the Bruce Highway Action Plan, \$10 billion will have been spent on the Bruce Highway.

We are seeing \$300 million for the Brisbane Metro to bust congestion in Brisbane and provide better public transport; \$170 million for the Cunningham Highway, linking Southern Downs and Ipswich; a share of \$160 million for the Outback Way, which stretches between Winton and Laverton in Western Australia; \$1.5 billion for northern Australian strategic roads; and \$1 billion for the M1 Pacific Highway. I am also very glad to see a project close to my heart receiving \$390 million to duplicate the north coast line between Beerburrum and Landsborough. The transport minister has already turned down \$150 million from the federal government for a rail link to the Townsville port. Do not let that happen with these projects across the length and breadth of the state.

Will the Premier and the Treasurer put their fair share of matching funding on the table in next month's budget to get this infrastructure built in Queensland? I know it is a hard thing for this Palaszczuk Labor government but, when it comes to the infrastructure Queenslanders are crying out for, the message in next month's budget is simple—just build it.