




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Federal Budget

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (10.14 am): Today's news about Queensland's population approaching the five million mark illustrates how our great state continues to forge ahead. The Palaszczuk Labor government is working to support a growing Queensland—by building the industries for tomorrow, revitalising manufacturing, improving infrastructure and planning for the future. As well as those newly born here, more people are voting with their feet and choosing to live in Queensland—with our state shooting to the top destination for interstate migration. What this shows is that the Palaszczuk government is leading Queensland into a new decade of optimism and opportunity, with more jobs, better communities and a brighter future for all Queenslanders.

The government shares and supports Queenslanders' innate sense of optimism and opportunity. The people of Queensland are accustomed to their state achieving great things, but there is another thing Queenslanders have become accustomed to since 15 September 2015—that is, the sense of being let down by Malcolm Turnbull's Liberal National Government. Nowhere in the Turnbull government's budget is the sense of feeling let down more apparent than when it comes to funding for Queensland's infrastructure. Queenslanders should rightfully feel disappointed by another federal budget without a single dollar to support the transformative Cross River Rail project. Cross River Rail is ready and needed. The lack of funding comes as Malcolm Turnbull has committed \$5 billion to a railway in Victoria which has no route and no business case and is not needed before 2030.

As a proud Logan resident, I am pleased that the Turnbull government has finally provided some funding for the M1—something my colleague, the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, and Logan Labor MPs have been fighting for for many years. However, yet again the federal government has let Queenslanders down—offering to fund only 50 per cent funding for the Pacific Highway upgrades when it funds 80 per cent of upgrades to exactly the same highway in New South Wales.

Of greater concern, even when Queensland projects have been funded, is that funding will not flow to Queensland—or support necessary jobs in Queensland—until the 2023-24 financial year. Put simply, the Turnbull government's budget is a hoax. The business community knows it, and so do Queenslanders, but Queenslanders know something else. They know, whether it is funding for natural disaster recovery, improvements to the Bruce Highway or a levee to protect Rockhampton residents from a flood, that the Palaszczuk government will always stick up for Queensland. It is about time those opposite did a little bit of that also.