




Speech By
Christopher Whiting

MEMBER FOR BANCROFT

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Bancroft Electorate, Federal Budget

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (2.39 pm): I rise to speak about the impact of the federal government's budget on the lack of infrastructure in my electorate of Bancroft. We heard the promise of \$5.2 billion in infrastructure projects for Queensland and we heard the Leader of the Opposition crow about it, but the reality is that there is nothing of substance here. There is nothing new to improve the lives of the people of Bancroft over the next 12 months. As we have heard, of the \$5.2 billion promised, only \$4.6 billion will appear in about four years time. There is nothing for the Bruce Highway for at least four years. Queensland receives nothing from the \$1 billion urban infrastructure fund this year and only \$40 million over the forward estimates, as we previously heard from the member for Pine Rivers.

There is nothing for Cross River Rail, and this is vital for our area. I calculate that it would save about an hour and a half in commuting time for each commuter going to the city each week. In peak hours that is a train every five minutes in my area, and that means thousands of extra seats on those trains for people going in and out of the city for work. As the RACQ said, this federal budget is all smoke and mirrors. The federal government has underfunded and underdelivered on Queensland infrastructure. An analysis by Infrastructure Partnerships Australia revealed that infrastructure funding has been cut by about \$2 billion over the forward estimates.

It is not unusual to see this from the LNP. They have a record of talking up road infrastructure but skipping out on funding deals for those roads. During the election campaign the LNP candidates in my area called for new roads and bridges to take commuters to Brisbane. I have not heard anything since from them on this particular matter. The member for Pine Rivers said that the announcement about the Dohles Rocks on ramps was a reannouncement of a reannouncement from 2016, and I look forward to that being reannounced again when the federal election is called.

I appreciate the 80-20 funding for the Deception Bay Road overpass and Boundary Road, but the federal government keeps slipping back into the trick of trying to get us to do fifty-fifty funding for those federally listed projects. They have a record of walking away from funding agreements. They did it with the Rothwell intersection in my area, which was supposed to a 60-30-10 per cent split between all three levels of government as part of the new rail link. We had to make sure that the shortfall was catered for, so we ended up putting in about \$24 million out of the \$35 million project. It just goes to show that there is one side that my area can rely on to deliver infrastructure, and that is the Labor Party. Due to the population expansion in our area I really want to see the federal government get on board and deliver some funding for infrastructure.