




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR NANANGO

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MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Beef Australia; Federal Budget

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): Last week in Rockhampton I, along with many members on this side of the House, had the pleasure of attending beef week. Beef week is an institution, not only in Queensland but right around the world. People travelled across the globe to Australia—to Rocky, the beef capital—to meet with our farmers, our landholders, to showcase their cattle, promote their businesses, agricultural interests and swap trade stories about the beef industry here in Queensland. One thing was abundantly clear: Queensland farmers had a beef with the Queensland Premier.

According to the Premier, the reason farmers had a beef with her was they could not understand the new vegetation management laws. I have a news flash for the Premier: they do understand them. They understand that the Premier has destroyed their livelihoods. They understand that this government has put their futures on the line. They understand that generations of farming families are now in jeopardy because of these laws. It is clear that those sitting opposite on the Labor side of this House have blatantly misunderstood and misread the hurt and frustration that Queensland farmers are feeling. The farmers are the real victims, not the Premier.

It is unfortunate that Labor does not understand the bush. It is certainly unfortunate it does not understand farmers. Its only focus is winning back green votes. To add further insult to our farmers, those opposite have decided to run a taxpayer funded advertising campaign to educate farmers on vegetation management laws. In case no-one has told the Premier, our farmers are not fools. They do not need education around what they already know—that the laws are intended to hurt farming because that is what the green activists want. We do not need the slick propaganda campaign, we just need common sense and compromise. The Labor Party needs to go back to the drawing board instead of wasting taxpayers' money on propaganda. There is no justifying these vindictive vegetation laws.

I was grateful, and I know my team was, to receive such a warm welcome from the people who travelled to Rocky. The reason we received such a warm welcome was we stood with our landholders, agriculturalists and our farmers against the job-destroying vegetation management laws. I want to personally thank all of the graziers and farmers for that welcome and for standing up against these laws. It was truly inspiring to hear directly from people within the Queensland beef industry committed to growing and progressing their industry despite the barriers the Labor government has brought in.

They breed them tough in the bush. Our Queensland farmers will not go down without a fight. The LNP will always protect farmers' rights to run sustainable, successful businesses that support their families. The LNP will always respect and support the industry that is the economic backbone of so many of our rural and regional communities. Sadly, but not surprisingly, none of these proud principles matter to the Labor Party. The LNP will always back Queenslanders. Be it at a local, state or federal

government level, the LNP is focused on job creation, cutting taxes and building infrastructure. As we saw last week in the federal budget, the federal government is investing billions of dollars to kickstart Queensland's economy and build the infrastructure our state needs.

Disappointingly, the Queensland economy is underperforming. We used to be the No. 1 state for economic growth and employment but now we are at the bottom of almost every economic table. How did that happen? It is not too hard to work out. Queenslanders are working hard and it is not their fault that they have a government that has simply lost its way. Those opposite in the Labor Party quite simply have no economic plan at all. All they have in their locker is five new taxes. They announced four new taxes before the state election and now we have a fifth tax which was supposedly to stop the trucks but then it was to be brought in earlier to save Ipswich because they decided to dump recycling. We do not know how much the tax is or when it is going to be brought in. The Treasurer of Queensland clearly has no idea. She is from the school of Labornomics. It is frightening that all those opposite have in their economic plan is five new taxes.

Let us compare Labor's Treasurer Jackie Trad with the federal Treasurer. The contrast could not be larger. Queensland's Treasurer cannot see beyond South Brisbane. The federal Treasurer clearly understands there is more to Queensland than just inner-city Brisbane. The federal Treasurer also sees the huge potential in the bush. That is clear because Queensland was a big winner in the federal budget.

I can list the \$5.2 billion worth of projects: a \$3.3 billion investment in the Bruce Highway; \$390 million on the Sunshine Coast rail duplication; \$1 billion extra for the M1; \$1.5 billion for Northern Australia under the Roads of Strategic Importance program—bush roads; \$95.4 million for increases in specialist medical training services for students so that doctors can be in rural and regional Queensland; and \$1.6 billion towards providing an extra 14,000 high-level home care packages for our seniors. The money is on the table and there is plenty of it, but there is a roadblock and that roadblock is opposite with the Treasurer, Jackie Trad.

The Premier and her government will not commit to coughing up its fair share of funding for the M1 and it will not commit to coughing up its fair share for the Sunshine Coast rail line. If the Premier does not commit to jointly funding these projects in the state budget it will be the biggest dummy spit the state of Queensland has ever seen. Queenslanders cannot afford to miss out on this investment. Millions of people in this state are struggling to make ends meet. We have endured record high electricity prices and now rising water prices. Car registration is increasing at twice the rate of inflation and we have the most expensive petrol in the nation. That is why the Turnbull government's tax cuts are so important. The Turnbull government's tax cuts will make it easier for Queensland families to get ahead. With the state budget coming up in a matter of weeks, I urge those on the other side of the chamber to get on board with the federal government.

I urge those opposite to encourage their Treasurer to help fund the M1 and to help build the Sunshine Coast rail line, to make it easier for Queensland families to get ahead. We need to see a state budget that delivers for all of Queensland and not just for the member for South Brisbane's pet tunnel project in Brisbane, Cross River Rail. We need to see a budget that builds dams in Queensland. We need to see a budget that builds roads in Queensland. We need to see regional roads funded. We need to see a state budget that delivers cheaper electricity for Queenslanders. We need a state budget that delivers for our doctors and our nurses in rural and regional Queensland. We need to see a budget that bridges the divide between the south-east corner and the rest of Queensland, because if those opposite took a moment to look outside they would realise that there is a beautiful big world out there that is full of opportunity.

There are many in this state who want to contribute to the state coffers, but cannot when they are continually shut out by this incompetent Labor government. I ask: what will it take for this Premier to deliver a budget for the whole of Queensland and not just for Jackie Trad's seat?