




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS

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MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Federal Budget

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (2.10 pm): Last week's federal budget was hyped to be Christmas, but the reality is that, far from being Santa, the federal Treasurer has instead cast himself as the Grinch. Far from new commitments to vital infrastructure and job creation projects, what we got was second-hand reannouncements of old infrastructure projects, repackaged, rewrapped and passed off as new. What we got was a \$10 smoke and mirrors tax cut designed to divert attention from the \$40-plus many workers are losing through wage stagnation and penalty rate cuts. In short, what we got was more of the same, but with a serving of election time rhetoric.

I can tell it is election time because my local federal member, Peter Dutton, has finally found the time to stop by the electorate he was elected to represent. I can tell that it is election time because every three years he pops up in Brendale or Murrumba Downs with his creepy caravan parked by the side of the road to reannounce the onramp upgrade that he reannounced in 2016. He has even rolled out a petition. Peter Dutton and his federal marginal colleague Luke Howarth MP are asking for signatures to get the state government to upgrade the Linkfield Road overpass at the Bruce Highway without committing a single cent of federal funding, let alone the 80 per cent of federal funding that the project requires.

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Ms BOYD: I take the interjection from the member for Buderim. No, it is not my job, as that 80 per cent funding actually comes from the federal government. Peter Dutton says the state should drop Cross River Rail and pay for the overpass upgrade, which shows just how shallow is the federal government's commitment to public transport. They are happy to get a selfie on a train, but they are not happy to build vital rail infrastructure. If we had genuine partners in government in Canberra, electors in my community of Pine Rivers would not have to choose between Cross River Rail and arterial road upgrades; we could do both.

I admit that I am an optimist, so on budget night I was waiting eagerly to see what moneys were committed by our federal government to Pine Rivers. Surely our overpass would receive the much needed federal co-contribution as, after all, our local member of parliament petitioned for such an upgrade. However, it turns out that when you pull the wrapping off this budget you find only an empty box. True to Turnbull's and Dutton's form, there was nothing. There was no money for Linkfield Road, zero funding for the vitally important congestion-busting project that is Cross River Rail and nothing for the Bruce Highway for at least four years. The hyped \$1 billion Urban Infrastructure Fund is a dud for Queensland, with zero dollars this year and only \$40 million over the forward estimates. Where did all the money go?

At a time when state governments are doing everything they can to manage population growth and invest in new and replacement infrastructure, the government of our nation has decided to splash \$80 billion on corporate tax cuts to banks and big business. The federal Liberal government has looked

at the state of our nation and decided that it is the wealthy who need the most help. Turnbull's tax cuts put people who are on a full-time minimum wage of \$37,000 per year in the same bracket as people earning \$200,000 a year. In seven years time, people on 37 grand per year will get a tax cut of only \$3.76 per week and those earning \$200,000 a year will get a tax cut of \$137.60 per week. The federal Liberal government budget will lock in inequality for years to come.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Pause the clock. Those on my left, you have had a pretty good go. Please listen to the member for Pine Rivers with the same respect that was given to the Leader of the Opposition.

Ms BOYD: Obviously they are more vocal as my cheer squad than they were for the Leader of the Opposition. This federal Liberal government will lock in inequality for years to come. It is an indictment that wage stagnation will continue and come 1 July there will be another penalty rates cut. Turnbull and his government will not even support increasing the minimum wage and we will see 40 per cent of the workforce in insecure work. Families are operating under a cloud of uncertainty as household expenses increase dramatically, putting them further and further behind. In Canberra we have a government that will not stand up for working people, will not invest in infrastructure and will not support job-creating projects.

(Time expired)