




Speech By
Andrew Powell

MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE

Record of Proceedings, 4 April 2019

MOTION

Federal Budget

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (11.53 am): I rise to support the Scott Morrison federal budget and reject this motion. It is a scary day in Queensland when the people of this great state get a lecture on economic management from the Labor Party. Let's just have a couple of reminders. They so poorly managed the budget that it was a Labor government under former premier Anna Bligh that sold the forestry, sold the ports, sold Queensland Motorways and sold the railway lines across this state in a fire sale. It was the Labor Party who so mismanaged the budget here in Queensland that they snuck in five sneaky taxes that each and every Queenslanders is going to be paying over the coming years. It is the Labor Party that have raided every single hollow log they can possibly find—

An opposition member: Super.

Mr POWELL:—including the long service leave and superannuation provisions of our public servants. Like the shadow Treasurer, I will not be lectured to by those opposite on economic mismanagement.

We have heard a bit today and quite a lot over the past couple of years about Cross River Rail. I want to put on the record some comments made by the Deputy Premier that 'we will go it alone'. Honourable members might think the Deputy Premier said that today in her press conference as they announced the contracts for Cross River Rail, but, no, those comments were made back in July of 2017. I table this ABC News transcript from an interview given, and the comments made, by the Deputy Premier that they would go it alone on Cross River Rail.

Tabled paper. Article from ABC News online, dated 26 July 2017, titled 'Cross River Rail: Infrastructure Australia rejects project for priority funding' [543](#).

Why do members opposite think the federal government has not provided them funding? It is because they have said they will fully fund it themselves. They cannot say that and then retract it and go on each and every budget saying, 'Where's our money for Cross River Rail?' Those opposite said they did not want it.

On that note, Mr Deputy Speaker, I want to ask a couple of the members in this chamber, through you, whether or not they want the following projects. There is \$4 billion in new funding announced in the Scott Morrison federal budget for the following projects. There is the Cairns Ring Road—\$287 million. Do the members for Barron River, Mulgrave and Cairns want to throw that money away? They do not want it. What about for road funding? What about funding for Cooktown to Weipa—\$190 million? Does the member for Cook not want that money or that investment? Should we throw it away? Then there is the Yeppoon road duplication—\$64 million. Are those opposite—the member for Keppel—telling us that they do not want \$64 million to duplicate the Yeppoon road? There is the Cunningham Highway, which goes through the member for Logan's electorate—\$170 million. They do not want that, either. As the shadow Treasurer said, there is the Gympie Arterial Road-Linkfield Road interchange—\$50 million. Does the member for Aspley seriously not want to accept that money?

Ms McMillan: Four years away.

Mr POWELL: Does the member for Mansfield not want \$12 million to fix the intersection at Newman and Wecker roads in her electorate? There is \$12 million being funded for that.

Government members interjected.

Mr POWELL: I hear those opposite saying it is four years away. Here is the reality. The reality has been summed up not by someone on this side of the chamber but by one of their own—the federal Labor member for Blair. They have not done the planning, and the member for Moggill raised this issue this morning about the intersection of Warrego Highway and Mount Crosby Road. The reality is that money is available.

Those opposite need to stop playing politics, get on with the planning, get on with putting out the expressions of interest, get on with signing the contracts and make sure that these projects happen because every day that we delay through debating silly motions like this instead of getting on with the work at hand means delaying every single one of those congestion-busting regional economic growth projects around this state.

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr POWELL: The Minister for Main Roads can harp on all he likes, but the reality is that he has been found out by Scott Morrison and our federal colleagues.

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr POWELL: They are putting the money on the table for these necessary projects. Clearly those opposite do not want it.