




Speech By
Andrew Powell

MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Budget, Infrastructure

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (2.00 pm): Labor claims that this budget is about borrowing to build and borrowing to build in the regions. Put simply, it is not. It is a complete and utter sham and the people of Queensland, especially regional Queensland, know it. As one of my constituents recently commented on a social media post, if we had a budget black hole because of an infrastructure build then that would be okay, that is investment. This is not investment, this is borrowing to pay for Labor's waste and mismanagement. Unbelievably, despite all the rhetoric we are hearing from those opposite, Labor is actually cutting infrastructure spending. That is why Queensland roads are congested and getting worse. That is why Queensland schools are overcrowded and student results are in decline; that is why Queensland's public hospital waiting times are blowing out and ambulance ramping is not only back but increasing; and, as my colleague the member for Toowoomba North often says, that is why crime is on the rise and our prisons are at breaking point.

Labor's idea of delivering infrastructure is delivering a great big bureaucracy in Brisbane. If we look into some of the details about what those opposite claim they are delivering in terms of infrastructure projects around this state, again we will see they are completely and utterly misleading the people of Queensland. When it comes to delivering the second M1, there is nothing in capital measures, only an additional \$10 million in QTRIP for transport project planning which is matched by \$10 million in federal government funding. There is no money to actually build the second M1. In relation to the Mackay Ring Road, I am sure the member for Mackay would have loved to have seen some funding for stage 2 of that ring-road, but, no, there is nothing in capital measures or QTRIP.

As for duplicating the Sunshine Coast rail line, again there is nothing in capital measures. There is no increased funding to match the 50 per cent given by the federal Morrison government and a large proportion of that project funding is in the out years beyond 2022-23. There is nothing for Nullinga Dam and nothing for Urannah Dam. When it comes to raising the Burdekin Falls Dam, in that case CleanCo has been reallocated \$100 million for the proposed Burdekin Falls Dam hydro-electric power station but that is pending further consideration of the project and in the event that the project is not progressed CleanCo will be required to invest this funding in a regional renewable energy project somewhere else so that is not going to happen either. After five years in power, all Labor is delivering is higher taxes, more debt, less jobs and less infrastructure. Queensland, you cannot afford Labor.