




Speech By
Bart Mellish

MEMBER FOR ASPLEY

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ADJOURNMENT

Linkfield Road

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (7.23 pm): It was only in December 2018—less than a year ago—when there were banners, signage and a full press conference. In attendance were the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister. The two federal LNP local members were also there. Of course, the location was the Linkfield Road and Gympie Arterial Road overpass at Bald Hills. The announcement was for \$100 million from the Morrison government to duplicate Linkfield Road. Absent from responses to questions on the day, or from a 589-word media release from the Prime Minister, or from any other comments from the government was the crucial detail, which was revealed only after the federal election—that the funding would not be provided until 2026 at the earliest.

The federal government has tried to hide this fact and has even refused to allow documents which proved the delay to 2026 to be tabled in federal parliament. I am very happy to table in state parliament a document from the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee that shows very clearly that the funding does not commence until 2026-27 at the earliest.

Tabled paper: Question on notice No. 51 for 2018-19 Additional estimates, Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee, Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities Portfolio, and answer [1930](#).

We have a \$120 million—\$100 million from the government—

Mr Powell interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Glass House, you have been warned under the standing orders. Under standing order 253A, you will now remove yourself from the chamber for the rest of this evening.

Whereupon the honourable member for Glass House withdrew from the chamber at 7.24 pm.

Mr MELLISH: They do not like the fact that it is a \$120 million project, which has funding of \$100 million from the federal government and \$20 million from the state government. We have brought forward planning works but, obviously, the project cannot commence until the \$100 million, already promised by the federal government, is brought forward. The federal government is spinning hard. It is a worrying pattern of behaviour when it comes to infrastructure investment in Queensland. Just this Monday gone the *Guardian* revealed—

The Morrison government has spent just \$2.2m of a \$3.5bn fund designed to tackle 'immediate priorities' in regional infrastructure, with construction yet to begin on 98% of projects identified under the 'roads of strategic importance' initiative.

This week, it has also been revealed that, of the amount the Morrison government spent on Roads of Strategic Importance last financial year, it spent eight times that amount on advertising its roads program. When it comes to investment in Queensland, all we are getting from the federal government is smoke and mirrors. The federal government is spending lots of money talking about roads but very little actually building roads.

What of Linkfield Road? An LNP campaign website remains. It is an exercise in building community support for a project that the federal government had no intention of funding for over seven years. While the federal government gets cute with its words, many people on the north side remain stuck in traffic. It is not just me calling for this investment. The International Monetary Fund and the Reserve Bank are calling for it. I refer to an article from February this year titled 'Use extra funds for infrastructure: IMF', which states—

The International Monetary Fund believes Australia would be wise to spend its extra money on infrastructure.

I refer to an article from July this year titled 'Reserve Bank governor calls for more federal government spending to boost economy' and an article from September this year titled 'RBA's Philip Lowe calls for increase in infrastructure spending'. It is very clear that this federal government is falling well behind on infrastructure investment. Motorists in Aspley on the north side are being failed.

Mrs Wilson interjected.

Mr MELLISH: The LNP does not like this, but it will not hear the end of it until it brings forward its funding for these projects that we need.