




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

Record of Proceedings, 4 April 2019

MOTION

Federal Budget

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (11.48 am): I am very pleased to rise in the House this morning to strongly support the motion moved by the Premier. Let me start by responding to the principal complaint of the Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. I will tell those honourable members why we can lecture the LNP on fiscal management in this state. We had four budget surpluses in a row—four Labor budget surpluses in a row.

When the Deputy Leader of the Opposition was a member of the Newman cabinet and when the Leader of the Opposition was sitting around crafting the budgets of the Newman government, what surplus did she deliver? Absolutely nothing. She could not deliver one surplus in three years in office. That is why we are proud to stand in this House in this debate to condemn the federal LNP government for short-changing Queensland once again.

This federal budget is not a budget that brings home the bacon; it is a budget that seeks to save the bacon of the LNP across the nation. The only state that loses out of that is Queensland. They have promised a surplus, they say; they say it is written down. It is a promise; it is on the never-never. It will not happen until next year. Remember Joe Hockey? Yes, I know it is hard to remember. Remember when Joe Hockey was the treasurer? He promised a surplus in every year of the federal coalition government. Six budgets later that broken promise has been written up in red ink.

Only the LNP could have produced federal deficit after federal deficit and still cut funding to schools, hospitals and infrastructure in Queensland. Only the federal LNP could cut funding to essential services and infrastructure and deliver deficit after deficit, because the rorts have been coming thick and fast. There is \$50 million for a hospital in Geelong. We have heard all of those honourable members complaining about Queensland hospitals, yet what did they get for Queensland? What did those state and federal LNP members get for Queensland hospitals, for Queensland hospital infrastructure? Absolutely nothing! There is \$50 million for a hospital in Geelong, \$2 billion for a fast rail to Geelong, but nothing—everything on the never-never—for Queensland.

Even Adelaide, which has the lowest growth of any state capital city in the midst of net migration loss—that is more people are moving out of Adelaide than are moving into Adelaide—gets \$3 billion for the Adelaide north-south road corridor, \$3 billion for a state that is going backwards and a city that is going backwards. What did those members opposite say about that?

An opposition member interjected.

Mr DICK: I take the interjection. I hear the member for Southern Downs. What did Port Augusta get, a town the size of Warwick? It got a bridge worth \$160 million. That is what Gawler got. I say to the member for Southern Downs that he had better speak to David Littleproud.

Mr Lister interjected.

Mr DICK: Gawler in South Australia has a population of 26,000 and gets almost a quarter of a billion dollars—\$220 million—to electrify the rail line.

Mr Lister interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Member for Southern Downs.

Mr DICK: I would not be interjecting if I were the member for Southern Downs; I would be hanging my head in shame that he cannot deliver anything for his community.

Mr Lister interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Southern Downs!

Mr DICK: The fact of the matter is I am calling out what is happening in southern states in places like Geelong—and I have no complaint with the city or people of Geelong. My complaint is with the absolute rotting that is happening, the bodgying up of marginal coalition seats to save those seats at the cost of Queensland.

Honourable members do not have to take my criticism of the LNP; they can forget that altogether if they wish. They can ignore me completely, but let's see what others are saying about the LNP. They say we are seeing 'candidates and elected members of the LNP whose primary focus is not a desire to serve their communities but to serve themselves'.

Ms Jones: Oh, Jane Prentice.

Mr DICK: Who said that? The federal member for Ryan, Jane Prentice; a woman who they have cut from their federal parliamentary team, probably because she is a woman, is saying that they only exist to serve themselves. Does this federal budget not write that large? Is that not in absolute flashing neon? This budget is for the LNP and it is against Queensland and the needs of regional and rural Queensland in particular.

I support the motion. I strongly support it because we need our fair share in Queensland.

(Time expired)