




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Federal Election

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (10.12 am): This weekend all Australians have a choice. On the one hand we have the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison-Truss-Joyce-McCormack perhaps Joyce again-Hanson-Palmer coalition government. It will be an experiment the likes of which Australia has never seen—a heaving, unstable coalition, as described by retiring Liberal minister Kelly O’Dwyer, of homophobic, anti-women climate change deniers. They will be propped up by a constellation of dodgy preference deals—one with a morally bankrupt businessman, another with the standard bearer of xenophobes, MPs who spend their weekends with Neo-Nazis and other right-wing extremists.

We know their record. They have put Queensland into an infrastructure freeze. There is no money for Cross River Rail. They want to cut the end off the Gold Coast Light Rail. In their last budget, they put more money into a rail line in Sydney than into all the roads in Queensland, including the Bruce Highway. It is a federal coalition that is yet to deliver a budget surplus in nearly six years of government, whereas the Palaszczuk Labor government has delivered four in a row. They are a government with an Attorney-General who said ‘people have a right to be bigots,’ a Prime Minister who would not vote for marriage equality and a home affairs minister who boycotted the national apology. They are a government who cut health when they promised they would not. They cut education when they promised they would not. They cut the ABC when they promised they would not. They have even proudly delivered an underspend on the disabled. What is next? Who knows what culture war will be prosecuted next by a government that has nothing but a record of cuts and a future of chaos.

On the other hand, there is a better way for Australia—a strong united Shorten Labor government that will invest in infrastructure, support manufacturing and create jobs. There will be more money for the Bruce, \$2.24 billion for Cross River Rail to improve our rail network and investing to upgrade and widen the Ipswich Motorway. A Shorten Labor government will invest in the jobs of the future—free TAFE for more students, a billion dollars for a new hydrogen industry to be led by Queensland that will boost jobs and protect the environment for our kids. There will be national leadership that treats people with respect regardless of their sexuality, gender, religion or ability. A Shorten Labor government is the federal government that Australia deserves and Queensland needs. I urge all Australians to make the right choice for Queensland and support a federal Shorten Labor government.