




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Qantas, Group Pilot Academy; Morrison Federal Government, Infrastructure Funding

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.51 am): The Palaszczuk Labor government is bringing more jobs and new industries to Queensland. Last month we saw the commencement of the first 12 student pilots at the new Qantas regional pilot training academy at Toowoomba Wellcamp Airport. These students will be starting their training at the University of Southern Queensland while construction of the new academy is underway. The construction project is already creating up to 100 direct jobs and up to 300 additional jobs for local small and medium sized enterprises in the construction supply chain. When complete, the academy will have capacity to train up to 250 pilots each year and will create up to 160 jobs in training and support roles.

Boeing has estimated the Asia-Pacific region alone will need an extra 248,000 pilots by 2035, and facilities such as this Qantas training academy, supported by the Queensland government through our Advance Queensland Industry Attraction Program, will put Queensland in the cockpit when it comes to servicing that market. While we are investing in regional training, we are seeing a continuing failure by the Morrison government when it comes to regional infrastructure. One half of one per cent—that is what Queensland is worth to Scott Morrison because that is how much he has allocated from his special fund that is meant to connect regions with major business opportunities.

Take for example the Rockhampton Ring Road. As the members for Rockhampton and Keppel know, in the last federal budget Scott Morrison contributed just \$80 million to this project—wait for it—in 2022-23, but the remaining \$720 million is in the onwards forecast for the Morrison coalition government. As the member for Mackay knows, when it comes to the Mackay Ring Road stage 2, nothing has been allocated in the federal government's forward estimates. There is \$280 million listed as onwards. As the members for Aspley and Pine Rivers and other government members on the north side know, the Bruce Highway-Linkfield Road overpass has zero dollars allocated from 2018-19 to 2022-23, with only \$100 million allocated by Scott Morrison in the onwards forecast.

Year after year the Morrison LNP government is plundering Queensland taxpayers and giving nothing back in return. It is time the federal government stopped treating Queensland as a cash machine for southern states and gave Queensland its fair share.