




Speech By
Christopher Whiting

MEMBER FOR BANCROFT

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Bancroft Electorate, Federal Budget

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (2.15 pm): The federal budget will have almost no impact in my electorate. I want to take a view of this budget from street level—in Deception Bay at my local shopping centre, answering questions about this federal budget and what it will bring to the lives of working Queenslanders. The answer is nothing. It brings nothing—more of the same, even less of what we need.

My locals are smart and they understand what the budget will mean to them. The budget's biggest selling point—\$1,000 at tax time—will leave them unmoved. It does not make up for the wage rises they have not got. In fact, it will only remind them that their pay has not gone up for years and years under this federal LNP. They know that this is a government that has been content to see their wages stagnate. This one-off payment does not compare to the wages they have lost or the superannuation they have forgone.

As I said, they are smart and they know that a government should do more than just splash cash at election time. Governments should generate real change, not spare change. They know that this budget will change nothing at Centrelink. No-one will be able to get through on the phone. They know that the federal LNP will keep trying to kick people off their benefits and payments—'But here's a thousand dollars if you can forget that.'

Locals know that they will never get anything from the federal LNP for jobs and training. They have little faith in the job provider network which has mostly left town. If I said that Morrison had delivered \$120 million in cuts to TAFE and training, they would not be at all surprised. Locals also know that they are not going to see the money needed to upgrade the roads that they travel on to work. If I said that the only new road project the LNP funded was the Bracken Ridge stretch of the motorway and that they will not see construction for three years, they would say, 'Typical.'

However, change may well be on the way. Today may well be the very last day in parliament for the current federal LNP member. The episode he created this week with the Deception Bay Little Athletics club illustrates how the LNP have left us with something that is worse than nothing. The Deception Bay Little A's is the biggest and best little A's club in Queensland. They have sent eight locals to international competitions. They want a tartan track and I back them 100 per cent.

The member for Petrie started an online petition a week ago and got the club excited about it. They were told that the money would be in the budget, but on the day before the budget they learnt that the money for the project was not there. The online petition that he started up for projects in Redcliffe and North Lakes has got up, but Deception Bay had missed out again. It was devastating—devastating—to my community. This sums up the impact of the LNP on my community—more of the same, less of what we need.

(Time expired)