



Speech By  
**Aaron Harper**


**MEMBER FOR THURINGOWA**

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Record of Proceedings, 12 May 2021

**MOTION**

**Federal Budget**

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (5.02 pm): I rise to support the Treasurer and his motion. These words sum up the federal budget for Townsville: nothing, crumbs, worthless, inept, untrustworthy, appalling. That is how I sum up the federal member for Herbert and the member for Burdekin, whose contribution to this debate did not mention the \$195 million that was promised for Townsville in 2019 for the Haughton pipeline stage 2. It is not there. It is not even in the budget papers. I do not even think that \$195 million exists.

There is a range of projects in the member's own electorate: Lansdown, hydrogen, Riverway Drive and the pipeline funding that is critical for our city. I do not know how the member can actually sit there and say that we got a fair share when it is not even in the budget papers. It lets down everyone in Townsville, just like the federal member for Herbert. There is critical infrastructure that is needed in my city. The water main from the Ross Dam down to the Douglas treatment plant can fail at any time. It failed in December and we did not have water. Members opposite are laughing thinking that critical infrastructure is not needed. Where was their fight with the federal government? They should be standing up for Townsville. They are all quiet now. They are saying not one word. Where is the money? Show me the money! Critical infrastructure is required in our city and there is not one cent.

Do honourable members know what I am really afraid of? I am afraid that if the \$195 million ever appears they will give it with one hand and do us again. They did us on the Haughton pipeline. They are going to pull the wool over our eyes. Guess what? The GST allocation will come back on the Queensland government. They will take another \$156 million out of it and never deliver. They will put it on to Queensland to pay for everyone when other states, like in the case of the Snowy Hydro scheme, did not have to pay from their GST allocation. I have grave concerns and I know the member for Townsville has grave concerns. That money should have been in the budget papers. Where was it?

Where is it in the federal budget and why are the opposition not standing up for North Queensland? Why do they not pick up the phone to their mates? I am glad I have ministers on this side who are working directly with the Deputy Prime Minister: Minister Bailey, Minister Butcher and the Deputy Premier. We do not need Phil Thompson; he can pack his bags and take off. He is hopeless, inept, useless. We will stand up for people in Townsville and North Queensland. The Labor government will deliver.

*(Time expired)*