



Speech By  
**Brent Mickelberg**


**MEMBER FOR BUDERIM**

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Record of Proceedings, 12 May 2021

**MOTION**

**Federal Budget**

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (4.47 pm): We are here today debating the latest pathetic motion from the red army opposite decrying Canberra. The red army, as we just heard, wants to defund the Defence Force. The red army wants to see the hordes come over the hill to save a dollar. It is a disgrace, and the member for Mackay should reflect on her comments. Defence forces exist for the defence of Australia, not to create wars. They exist to finish wars.

Despite Queensland's ballooning debt, \$28 billion, what have Queenslanders seen for it? Infrastructure spending in Queensland is only 12 per cent of the state budget. In New South Wales and Victoria it is nearly 20 per cent. Two-thirds of Queensland's new debt goes towards funding recurrent operational expenditure. Not on infrastructure, but on recurrent expenditure. It is a disgrace. The Queensland economy is languishing. It is sixth in the country for economic performance and last for economic growth out of all of the states and territories. It is a disgrace and those opposite should be ashamed.

What did we see from the federal government in the budget last night? We saw funding for a state road at the Mooloolah River interchange which the state government cannot even finish a business case for. They have been dragging their heels on a critical road in the centre of my electorate for the better part of the time I have been in this parliament. A business case was started in the first budget when I entered this parliament in 2018 and it is still not finished. The federal government has come to the assistance of Sunshine Coast residents because if they do not, that road will not be built.

I look forward to seeing a commitment from the Treasurer in the state budget for at least 50 per cent of the funding for the Mooloolah River interchange. Without that commitment they are demonstrating that they are not serious about supporting Sunshine Coast residents and Queenslanders more generally.

We have heard those opposite cry that Queensland is being short-changed on health. Queensland has the highest per capita federal spend on health of any state—at \$1,087. No other state gets more than \$1,000, yet Queensland gets \$1,087. Is it little wonder that the federal government have no faith in the Queensland Labor government to deliver for Queenslanders?

We saw a childish press release on Sunday from the minister for skills that said, 'funding for the new national agreement on skills that provides the state full autonomy of its skills system'. The Queensland minister for skills and training wants to see the federal government write a blank cheque for training across the entirety of the nation. How can that be justified? How can the federal government or any Queenslander have faith in this failed Labor government delivering for Queensland?

*(Time expired)*

