



Speech By  
**Hon. Cameron Dick**


**MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE**

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**MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Leader of the Opposition, Performance**

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Investment) (2.10 pm): Today we learn that the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Broadwater, has no backbone. Imagine standing here in the people's house on federal budget day knowing that Queensland has been ripped off on infrastructure spending—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DICK:** They do not want to hear it. Imagine knowing you have been ripped off on infrastructure spending and the Leader of the Opposition does not utter one word of support for Queensland jobs and the Queensland economy. The opposition leader's silence is as shocking as it is damning of the state LNP. There is not one word of criticism, not even a single request for federal funding.

We know the Leader of the Opposition cannot contain his ambition, but his performance in standing up for Queensland is simply pathetic. Let us put Scott Morrison's rancid infrastructure rip-off to one side. What about doing a basic job as a political leader? Just ask for something. The Leader of the Opposition cannot think of one thing, not one single thing, that he can ask for from his political colleagues in the federal LNP on behalf of the people of Queensland, not even for the electorate of Broadwater. I do not think much of the LNP, but they sure deserve better than this sort of leader. The Leader of the Opposition's failure to stand up for Queensland is a betrayal of our state and a betrayal of the office that the member for Broadwater holds. If you are not prepared to demand federal funding for Queensland, you are not fit to be the Leader of the Opposition let alone the Premier of Queensland.

I heard the Leader of the Opposition talking about hospitals. Why not stand up for Queensland and demand some more funding? Why not ask the federal government for more health funding? Why not ask Scott Morrison to directly fund a \$50 million public hospital just like Geelong got? Why doesn't the Leader of the Opposition ask Scott Morrison to remove the 6½ per cent federal bulk funding cap—the artificial cap that was imposed on health funding by the federal LNP when they absolutely wrecked national health reform? Why doesn't the Leader of the Opposition ask Scott Morrison to fix Medicare so some Queenslanders might just be able to access bulk-billing? After all, the Morrison government, the federal LNP government, raises 81 per cent of taxes in this country.

The federal Morrison government has the funding, the power and the budgetary capacity to fix so many of these issues, but the Leader of the Opposition will not say a single word. He will not ask a single question, he will not write a letter, he cannot even make a phone call. The Leader of the Opposition only criticises the state government because every single thing he does is driven by one thing and one thing alone, and that is politics.

The Leader of the Opposition does not care about patients. The Leader of the Opposition does not care about health care. He does not care about public hospitals. He does not even care about Queensland. He only cares about himself and getting a seat back around the cabinet table like when he served Campbell Newman. The Leader of the Opposition loved those days. He loved being in the

cabinet with his great friend and mentor, Campbell Newman. The Leader of the Opposition loved it so much he is bringing it back. Campbell Newman is back to the top of the LNP tree, and every member opposite knows it. He is coming back.

I will say this much: it did not happen under the member for Clayfield. The member for Clayfield knew that Campbell Newman was absolutely toxic to Queenslanders. It did not happen under the member for Nanango. Maybe that was because Campbell Newman called the member for Nanango 'populist' and 'retrograde'. Either way, the member for Nanango knew that Queenslanders did not want to see any more of Campbell Newman. It is a lesson the member for Broadwater ought to learn but he is simply far too arrogant.

The Leader of the Opposition aided and abetted the return of Campbell Newman back to the top of the LNP. You cannot make this up, and it is not only Campbell Newman but Lawrence Springborg. How is that for new politics that he goes on about all the time? How is that for generational change: Campbell Newman and Lawrence Springborg? The people of this state rejected those leaders over and over and over again, and the Leader of the Opposition keeps inflicting them on Queenslanders. The Leader of the Opposition is out of touch, he will not stand up for Queensland and he offers nothing for Queensland except Campbell Newman.