




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Federal Budget

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Investment) (9.47 am): I begin my contribution this morning by associating myself with the words of the Premier to acknowledge Beef 2021. What a great event it was! I want to pass on my congratulations to chair Bryce Camm, deputy chair Grant Cassidy, and the entire Beef Australia team for an outstanding event.

On to more pressing matters. Tonight the Prime Minister, Scott Morrison, has the chance to end his rotten rip-off of Queensland. Let me say this in words even those members opposite will understand: tonight will the Prime Minister's rotten rip-off of Queensland roll on or will Scott Morrison finally do the right thing by our state and give us our fair share? Queensland deserves our fair share as the fastest growing state in the nation. As the Premier pointed out, across the year a net 30,000 Australians packed up their bags and moved here. That is more than 80 new Queenslanders arriving every single day during 2020. Many of them came from New South Wales, which saw its population fall by nearly 19,000 through net migration, and Victoria, which went backwards by almost 13,000.

When it comes to where Australians want to live, it is Queensland under the Palaszczuk Labor government first and daylight a distant second. We welcome those new Queenslanders, but our growing population means more pressure on housing, hospitals, roads and schools. All Queensland ever asks for from Canberra is our fair share. Unfortunately, all Queensland gets from the federal LNP is rip-offs. They will not give us one cent for Queensland's Cross River Rail, when we had a route, we had a business case and we had every expert in the country screaming that it was needed. Yet Melbourne got \$5 billion—that is, \$5 billion—for an airport rail line when there was not even a map setting out that rail line's route. And do not get me started on Sydney. Sydney got \$5.3 billion for a brand new airport. Let us not forget Geelong, which got \$2 billion for fast rail and a brand new \$50 million public hospital funded by the federal LNP. How many hospitals in Queensland have been funded by Scott Morrison and the federal government? Zero, absolutely none.

Unfortunately, it seems the rip-off of Queensland is likely to continue in tonight's federal budget. Yesterday, media outlets trumpeted \$1.6 billion for Queensland roads and rail. While we welcome any funding for our state, that amount is dwarfed by the lavish handouts to southern states: \$3 billion for New South Wales; \$3 billion for Victoria; and for South Australia, \$2.6 billion for a single road tunnel. South Australia had net interstate migration last year of just 98 people. Why on earth do 98 people need a \$2.6 billion road tunnel? I will tell you why. It is called the federal Liberal seat of Boothby and its razor thin margin of 1.38 per cent. Meanwhile, lazy federal LNP members in Queensland on fat margins get nothing for our state.

There are so many other important initiatives in this state that are crying out for support from Scott Morrison. Where is the \$50 million for our hospital? Where is the funding for the Bundaberg flood levee? Where is the \$195 million for Townsville, which is 281 days overdue? Where is the \$40 million for the Wellcamp Entertainment Precinct in Toowoomba? Where is the \$1 billion Scott Morrison is

obliged to contribute over the next 10 years to improve remote Indigenous housing? I am fearful that nothing will happen. After all, with senior cabinet ministers like Peter Dutton failing to pay even their council rates, how can we expect them to provide the funding that Queensland deserves? Tonight's federal budget needs to signal the end of Scott Morrison's great Queensland rip-off. Queensland deserves nothing less because we deserve our fair share.