




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

Record of Proceedings, 12 May 2021

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Federal Budget

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Investment) (9.45 am): I begin my ministerial statement by acknowledging the mighty nurses and midwives of Queensland. One of the greatest honours you can have is to be the son of a nurse or midwife, and my late mother was both, so I want to acknowledge the outstanding health care that nurses and midwives provide to Queenslanders wherever they live in our great state.

The federal budget has ripped off Queensland. Yesterday we thought it was going to be bad, but now the federal budget has gone from bad to worse. We already knew we were being duded on the road and rail infrastructure spend, getting half of what the Morrison government was pouring into rust bucket states like South Australia, but it is even worse than we feared. It was already half of what South Australia was getting and now we learn it has been halved again. Only \$800 million of the announced funds are actually in the budget. Queenslanders are being held to ransom. You have to vote for Scott Morrison twice to get what we have been promised, but it is a different story if you live in a Liberal state. It is a very different story indeed. The Liberal states of New South Wales and South Australia get their billions paid in this budget while thousands pack and leave through net migration.

Mr Mander: What about Victoria?

Mrs D'Ath: What about Queensland?

Ms Palaszczuk: Yeah, what about Queensland?

Mr DICK: I take the interjection from the Premier. Don't worry about Victoria, member for Everton; worry about Queensland! New South Wales gets \$1.4 billion in the budget. South Australia gets \$2 billion in the budget. They do not have to wait. If you are lucky enough to live in some Liberal MPs' electorates, you will get a chop out too—\$77 million to underwrite the Portland aluminium smelter in Victoria—foreign owned, doesn't matter, cash for you.

Meanwhile, Ken O'Dowd, the outgoing member for Flynn, has demonstrated his total irrelevance. He could not get one cent—not one dollar—for our Australian owned aluminium smelter in Gladstone. And they are not the only regional Queenslanders to miss out: nothing for the Bundaberg East flood levee, so thanks for nothing, Keith Pitt; nothing for Toowoomba's Wellcamp Entertainment Precinct, so thanks for nothing, member for Groom—whoever you are. The Sunshine Coast Stadium gets zero, so thanks for nothing, Andrew Wallace; and there is nothing allocated from the \$195 million owed to the people of Townsville, so thanks for nothing, Phillip Thompson. Queenslanders will only get what they need when they start making these federal LNP seats marginal.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DICK: While Queensland has been failed by this rotten rip-off budget, our nation has been failed by the hubris and incompetence of the Morrison government's botched vaccine rollout. Only last week the Reserve Bank of Australia said that our economic growth would be 3¼ per cent by 2023. The

federal Treasurer, Josh Frydenberg, has now wiped off three-quarters of a percentage point, with projected growth of just 2½ per cent. That cut in economic growth equates to \$25 billion in lost economic output which we can only assume is due to the Morrison government's failure to deliver the vaccine to Australia. What that means is our nation is \$25 billion poorer as a direct result of the federal government's failure to vaccinate Australians.

Despite this record of failure and economic mismanagement by the Morrison government, Queenslanders will be better off because they live in a state led by the Palaszczuk Labor government. Don't take my word for it; look at the federal budget papers themselves delivered by the federal LNP. The federal budget shows that 84 thousand—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my left!

Mr DICK: The members opposite may like to listen: 84,600 Australians will move to Queensland on a net basis over the next four years.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members are aware that there is nothing contained in the standing orders that allows for interjections. I will tolerate a certain amount, but it is too high. Regardless of the statement being one which you may not like, it is a statement being made in accordance with the standing orders.

Mr DICK: The federal budget shows 84,600 Australians will move to Queensland on a net basis over the next four years. That is a city the size of Rockhampton that will be moving to Queensland. As the rest of the nation languishes with below-trend growth, these interstate arrivals will help support economic growth, but that growth in our population, leading the nation with interstate migration, will put more pressure on infrastructure which is exactly why Queensland has been so clearly ripped off by the Morrison government. We need more than other states, but we have received less. We needed better economic growth for the nation, but the Morrison government has delivered less. We needed more support for regional Queensland, but the federal government has failed on every single count. While the Morrison government fails our state, Queenslanders know the Palaszczuk Labor government will always stand up for them and their jobs.