




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

Record of Proceedings, 12 May 2021

MOTION

Federal Budget

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Investment) (4.07 pm): I move—
That this House—

1. notes the federal budget handed down on Tuesday, 11 May fails to deliver Queensland's fair share of funding as the fastest growing state in the nation; and
2. calls on the Prime Minister to provide Queensland with Queensland's fair share of Commonwealth funding.

Last night the federal Treasurer, Josh Frydenberg, handed down a budget that was disastrous for Queensland. It revealed that in 2023 the economy will be \$25 billion smaller than the RBA was predicting just five days ago. The best that Australian workers can look forward to is real wage cuts over the next four years and the botched vaccine rollout means that population growth forecasts have been cut in half relative to just five months ago. So badly has the Morrison government vandalised the vaccine rollout that their own budget papers concede that 'a population-wide vaccination program is likely to be in place by the end of this year'—not delivered, not completed; just 'in place'. Last October Scott Morrison was saying that four million Australians would have received their first vaccine jab by now. Now we are hearing that they might have the program set up for Christmas if the nation is lucky.

Mr Fumer: Which Christmas?

Mr DICK: I take the interjection from the minister for agriculture: 'Which Christmas?' That is a good question. Will it be 2021? 2022? Who knows! Even then, according to the budget papers—

Delays in the vaccine rollout, the emergence of additional strains of the virus, or alternatively, a more rapid recovery, are possible significant events that could cause forecasting errors to be larger than normal.

The Morrison government has bungled every step of its COVID response. Admittedly, expectations of Scott Morrison were low but even his errors on this have been larger than normal.

The responsibility of keeping Australians safe has fallen to state governments, including the Queensland government led by our Premier. On this front Queenslanders have done our nation proud. We have emerged from the pandemic with the fastest economic growth, the largest number of jobs added and the largest number of migrants anticipated from interstate—not that you would know about that from the Morrison government's budget.

The budget revealed that new infrastructure spending in Queensland—already half of what was being directed to New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia—will be cut in half again over the next four years. To add insult to injury, it is likely that half of the new infrastructure funding announced for Queensland will be subject to full GST treatment by the Commonwealth. That means that without corresponding projects in other states Queensland could have to pay back 80 per cent of the funds for those projects via the GST process.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr DICK: I take the interjection from the member for Logan. Should Scott Morrison seek to claw back those funds, in particular the \$195 million that is owed to the people of Townsville, we will fight his government every step of the way.

The Palaszczuk government is funding Queensland infrastructure and fighting for our share from Canberra because we know the challenge that lies ahead. Queensland is anticipating nearly 85,000 new migrants from other states over the next four years and the population of New South Wales is losing the same number of residents. Effectively, a city the size of Rockhampton will move across the border into Queensland over the next four years and the federal government is dribbling out our infrastructure, giving us short shrift and not our fair share. That is simply and fundamentally wrong.

The Morrison government's budget also short-changes Queensland's regions. There is no federal funding for the Bundaberg flood levee, which is in a federal Liberal seat. There is no funding in the budget for the Emu Swamp Dam, which is in a federal Liberal seat. There is no funding for the Wellcamp entertainment precinct, which is in a federal Liberal seat. There is no funding for the renovation of the Sunshine Coast Stadium, which is controlled by wall-to-wall federal LNP members of parliament. The phrase 'Sunshine Coast' appears not once in the Morrison government's budget papers.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr DICK: I take the interjection from the member for Kawana, who does not want to support a very vital and important project in his own community.

The four-letter word 'NAIF' appears nowhere in the budget papers as it celebrates its dubious six-year anniversary with only six per cent of the NAIF budget released. Details of the \$195 million in projects that our government secured for Townsville are nowhere to be found in the Morrison government's budget papers. In fact, fully two-thirds of our list of vital funding measures, which Canberra has known about for years, have received zero dollars in support from the Morrison government.

This is a truly disappointing budget for Queenslanders, who had high hopes for Scott Morrison. They have received a slap in the face in return. Our government only seeks Queensland's fair share from Canberra and asks the state LNP to stand up to Canberra and to stand up for Queensland.

(Time expired)