



Speech By  
**Charis Mullen**


**MEMBER FOR JORDAN**

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Record of Proceedings, 12 May 2021

**MOTION**

**Federal Budget**

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (4.37 pm): I am very pleased to speak to the Treasurer's motion and to stand up for Queenslanders. Yesterday when I spoke in the parliament on the issue of the federal budget and what seemed to be an embarrassing lack of funding for our state, I did wonder whether the Morrison government would prove me wrong and maybe their strategic leaking of budget measures was just a taste of what Queensland would be getting—you know, a \$1.6 billion morsel and then we would be getting our main meal later in the night.

Clearly, it seems that Queensland is on an imposed and unwelcome diet. The Morrison government did not prove us wrong but in fact confirmed our greatest fears—that the LNP are taking Queensland for granted. Lacklustre, lukewarm and lacking in substance—and that is just a description of the federal LNP members here in Queensland. What an embarrassment this is for the members for Leichhardt, for Herbert, for Dawson, for Capricornia, for Flynn, for Groom, for Petrie, for Forde, for Longman and for Bowman—although, to be fair, that is probably the least embarrassing thing he has done recently!

We have already listed the range of measures and infrastructure that we had hoped to see in last night's federal budget including more support for housing, more support for struggling businesses in our tourism industry that have been so hard hit by international border closures, more resourcing for primary healthcare support for those NDIS participants and aged residents in our public hospitals to ease the very demand pressures that those opposite keep raising. The \$1.6 billion in infrastructure is particularly galling. We have the fastest growing state in Australia. The figures for net interstate migration could not be clearer—30,000 people moved to Queensland. There has been no consideration by the federal government—no sense that population growth will naturally create demand pressures on our roads, on our health system, on our housing and on our education facilities. We have been completely taken for granted.

It is not like they are relying on those opposite to even give them a heads up on how bad this looks. I am sure when the Leader of the Opposition rings the federal Treasurer there is a bit of 'who dis?' Instead, leading into the federal budget, all we have had from those opposite is the line, 'Don't blame the federal government.' Who do we blame for our lack of funding in the federal budget if not the federal government that is delivering said budget? It is absolute nonsense.

How about if those opposite stand up for hardworking Queenslanders, perhaps rise in this parliament to talk about what advocacy they are planning with their federal mates. If you want to talk about preoccupation, in the last sitting we got five minutes of one of the strangest—and, frankly, a little creepy—performances from the member for Kawana, who was firmly focused on the state Treasurer. I mean, 30 seconds about the state Treasurer is fine; when it hit the three-minute mark I was a little concerned; but after a whole five minutes it is time to consider the fixated persons register. I do not

think that even the Treasurer's own family are on his Facebook page as much as the member for Kawana. He has earned his 'top fan' badge. I have a suggestion: perhaps members opposite could focus less on the state Treasurer and more on the federal Treasurer and demand our fair share for Queensland.