




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

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MOTION

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (5.18 pm): There is only one time we ever hear members of the LNP talk about infrastructure or housing—that is, when they are in opposition. When they get into government, they cut, cut and cut. Whatever they say and whatever they promise, a leopard does not change its spots. That is what they do. Having the LNP talk about infrastructure or social housing is like the New Zealand Warriors saying they are going to win the premiership! It is like Boris Johnson saying he is going to get a buzz cut or Donald Trump saying he will tell the truth and behave in a discreet kind of way! It goes against their brand and type.

This motion is erroneous. If those opposite really cared about social housing, they would be addressing the fact that the money in terms of state-federal partnerships for social housing dried up on the election of the federal LNP. It has been the same since the end of the Rudd-Gillard government. Is this motion talking about that relationship? No. It is just the same old blame game from the opposition, which has very little to put forward.

When it comes to infrastructure, those opposite suggest that there has been a chronic lack of infrastructure investment in the last six years. We all remember them cutting train drivers, cutting RoadTek workers, cutting nurses, cutting just about everything except 1 William Street—building an infrastructure program for themselves. While they were telling everyone else to take their medicine, they built a nice big building which they never moved into. Why is there an increase in demand for housing in this state? It is because this government has managed the pandemic amongst the best in the world and that is why 88 per cent of net migration is coming to Queensland, and that is why we are investing in infrastructure. We do not have the cuts that those opposite had previously.

This government is spending 50 per cent more on road and rail infrastructure since it came to office. Let us look at the facts about where the infrastructure is going compared to not a single new dollar spent on the M1 by those opposite when they were in power. They did not do anything on the Ipswich Motorway. If we look at the record of infrastructure under this government, there is the M1, the Ipswich Motorway, the Mackay Ring Road, Cairns southern access, the Cape York regional package, the Townsville Ring Road, Riverway Drive, ports. We have invested like no government has invested before.

I find it no coincidence that those opposite continually quote infrastructure partnerships when they are some of the greatest advocates for asset sales. Instead of members of the opposition being honest and saying, 'We believe in asset sales,' they have code and their new code is 'infrastructure partnerships this, infrastructure partnerships that'. That is their new code for asset sales. We know that to be the case. We have the Newman acolyte, the Leader of the Opposition, who sat around the cabinet table and cut, cut, cut—like others who are still there from the Newman days. We know he loves the Newman model because he said he was someone special. They are the words of the Leader of the Opposition himself, the member for Broadwater. That is what he said on the record. We know they do not change their spots.

This government has delivered five packages of infrastructure stimulus in the last 18 months—the inland rail package and four COVID stimulus packages, many of which are going out right now. In regional Queensland, the central west, the south-west—right across this state—they are hitting the ground right now and creating jobs. That is why the jobless rate has plunged nearly a whole per cent over the last few months, because we have invested in infrastructure. If we have not, where are the jobs coming from? Are those jobs in our imagination? I do not think so. They are real because we invest in infrastructure, unlike those opposite. We have built 11 new schools in the last couple of years, 39 large-scale renewable energy projects and record levels of investment in health. If people want investment, infrastructure and social housing, it is Labor. If they want cuts, it is—

(Time expired)