



Speech By  
**Hon. Dr Steven Miles**


**MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA**

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Record of Proceedings, 12 May 2021

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Federal Budget, Infrastructure**

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning) (9.50 am): Australia is at a crucial moment in our recovery from the pandemic. We are now well over a year into the COVID-19 pandemic but thanks to our health response we are 12 months, maybe more, ahead of other countries around the world when it comes to the post-pandemic recovery. Other countries will look to Australia and Queensland to see how we leveraged this head start, giving us an incredible opportunity to show the world what can be achieved. That is what makes last night's federal budget so important. For some reason though, the federal government want to spend their stimulus money anywhere but Queensland. The federal Treasurer announced about \$10 billion on major infrastructure projects over the next 10 years, but Queensland, the nation's fastest growing state, will only get \$1.6 billion of that. New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia will all get \$3 billion or more in federal funding for new projects.

Queenslanders just want their fair share. The Palaszczuk government knows investment in vital infrastructure will drive our state's recovery, resilience and confidence. Major infrastructure projects create thousands of jobs, which is exactly what will get our economy back up and running. Since 2015 we have invested over \$50 billion in infrastructure projects. The government's capital works and infrastructure program is increasing to more than \$56 billion over the next four years—the highest spend for over a decade. This will directly support diverse employment and economic activity across all regions, with \$14.8 billion worth of infrastructure investment in 2020-21 estimated to support 46,000 jobs. Over 58 per cent of the total jobs supported will be in regional Queensland. While we have a \$56 billion pipeline of projects over the next four years, last night's budget showed that over the next four years the federal government is only giving Queensland \$807.5 million of our promised \$1.6 billion. New South Wales and South Australia, both with LNP governments, get \$1.4 billion and \$2 billion respectively.

One of many lessons we have taken from COVID-19 is that we need to be flexible and resilient to deal with global health impacts and our usual suspects of natural disasters, changing demographics and population growth. Queensland is the place to be, recording our largest net migration since 2003 so why has the Morrison government opted to spend their borrowings in the southern states while Queensland is booming?

I would like to acknowledge that it is International Nurses Day. We would not have got through the pandemic without the hard work of every nurse who kept our system going. Some of them are in the gallery with us today and I would like to welcome them and thank them for everything they do every single day.