




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles
MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

Record of Proceedings, 27 October 2021

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

South East Queensland City Deal

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure) (9.43 am): The Palaszczuk government remains committed to negotiating and signing a South East Queensland City Deal, but the Morrison government's current proposal includes less investment and fewer projects for South-East Queensland, and the Morrison government expects Queensland taxpayers to pay most of the money back through a GST clawback. This means that when the Morrison government announces money for these projects it deducts money from Queensland's future GST allocation in return, making the deal practically worthless to the state. Queensland taxpayers are left to foot most of the bill. That means all of Queensland gets less money to fund hospitals, schools, doctors and nurses, just so the Morrison government can make announcements in the south-east.

We have made our position very clear since the beginning: we will not support a deal that affects our GST allocation. Until they are willing to commit new federal funding, rather than Queensland funds that they will subtract from our GST allocation, it is clear that they are not serious about securing a city deal. This year alone the Morrison government has crossed out more than \$400 million of projects from the South East Queensland City Deal. Projects cut include the ADaPT Gold Coast Health and Knowledge Precinct on the Gold Coast, the Maroochydore Convention Centre on the Sunshine Coast, The Mill at Moreton Bay and the Wellcamp Entertainment Precinct in Toowoomba.

Their new proposed city deal will deliver less funding per capita than any other city deal in Australia. The new city deal specifically excludes the Gold Coast. I can advise the House that the Palaszczuk government is very strongly of the view that the Gold Coast is part of South-East Queensland, especially given that it is the most south-east part of South-East Queensland.

Most city deals in other parts of the country deliver over \$1,500 per person, but for the South-East Queensland deal—this is the fastest growing region in Australia right now—the Morrison government has proposed just \$400 per person. The Morrison government demanded that we sign this deal without any consultation with the community just so they could get it done before the election, but I have said all along that we would not sign without consulting the community and we would not sign a deal that was bad for Queensland.

We have now commenced targeted consultation. We will ask industry whether they think the deal is good value for the region and whether they think it is fair for the Commonwealth to claw back 80 per cent of their contribution through GST—and we will ask them whether they think the Gold Coast is part of South-East Queensland. I am confident that once Queensland stakeholders see the Morrison government's proposal and understand the meagre contribution proposed, they will understand our concerns. I urge the Morrison government to join us in engaging meaningfully with community and civic leaders and industry to agree on the best deal possible for South-East Queensland.