




Speech By
Tim Nicholls

MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD

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MOTION

Federal Budget

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (4.27 pm): What a hollow motion from a hollow Treasurer. The reality is that you do not get your fair share if you do not do a fair amount of work. This Treasurer is not doing the work for it. This government is not doing the work for it. It does not have the plans. It does not have the gumption. It does not have the capacity.

Why would anyone give money to this government? Why would anyone give them a cent? They cannot spend it wisely. They hand it over to their mates in the unions—\$130 million extra for the Gold Coast Light Rail business best practice arrangements. We have a Treasurer who cannot stand up and carry an economic argument. We have a Treasurer whose expertise is having moody photographs of himself staring out the window and walking down the street with Pierre the French poodle. That is the extent of the work that this Treasurer does.

Then we had the member for Aspley refer to the former member for Lilley, Wayne Swan—a man who never ever delivered a budget surplus despite promising it four times. He never delivered a surplus on the operating account. He was too busy knifing the Prime Minister in the back. He was too busy getting the old spear out and giving it to Ruddy—not only once but twice did he do it.

Then we had the unbelievable arrogance of this Treasurer talking about forecasting figures. This from a Treasurer who could not remember their own level of state debt when he went on TV on the *Today* show. When asked how much it is, he said, ‘Uh, um—let me have a look here. I’m not quite sure how much that one is.’ It was a bit like when he was investing in Virgin. He did not know what he was getting for his money there and more than likely still doesn’t.

This is a hollow motion by a hollow Treasurer leading a hollowed out government with no plan for the future. This is against a government down in Canberra that has delivered for Queenslanders and delivered in spades and continues to deliver. Remember the complaints about the GST? Here it is: in 2020-21, GST will be \$14.8 billion to the state of Queensland—\$2.1 billion more than was forecast in last year’s budget—expanding out to \$15.6 billion. More than 51 per cent of the state government’s income this year will be from the federal government. What else has happened? We have tax cuts, the HomeBuilder scheme, the first home owners’ scheme, superannuation benefits—a good government delivering a good budget as opposed to a dud government with a hollow Treasurer who is going to deliver a hollow budget.

(Time expired)