



Speech By  
**Hon. Cameron Dick**


**MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE**

---

Record of Proceedings, 29 March 2022

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Federal Budget, Infrastructure and Health**

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (9.51 am): Queensland is the growth engine of the Australian economy. People across the nation look at Queensland and they like what they see. They like our nation-leading response to COVID-19 and the remarkable economic recovery that it has enabled. They like it so much they are moving here in droves.

In its October 2020 budget, the Morrison government predicted net interstate migration to Queensland would be 22,000 people across a 12-month period. At that time it seemed an extraordinary figure, but, according to ABS data released earlier this month, for the year to September 2021 net interstate migration to Queensland hit 40,000. That growth means that the needs of our state are growing faster than the rest of the country—the need for roads, for schools and for hospitals. Our government recognises those needs, which is why we are delivering our \$50 billion infrastructure guarantee over four years. Tonight we need the Morrison government to recognise the growing needs of Queensland and to finally give Queensland our fair share.

As our population grows and ages we need Scott Morrison to commit to a fifty-fifty funding split for health. That will help get aged-care and NDIS patients out of public hospitals and into the care in the community that they deserve. We need Scott Morrison to properly fund primary health care, the level of health care for which the Commonwealth is principally responsible, so GPs can be the first port of call for sick Queenslanders. With more and more Queenslanders looking for a suitable home every day, we need Scott Morrison to recommit funding to the National Rental Affordability Scheme.

Our First Nations people need Scott Morrison to reinstate \$10 million in annual funding for the remote Indigenous housing scheme. We need Queensland to get the same deal as the Liberal government in Tasmania: to get our historical social housing debt waved so we can get on with delivering more homes for Queenslanders.

With severe weather warnings in place across Queensland and accepted science showing we will have to deal with more natural disasters, we need Scott Morrison to match our natural disaster funding arrangements. This is not something to be delivered for the 2032 Olympics; it is not something to be promised for the federal election after this one. This is money needed urgently—today and tomorrow—to fix the homes of at-risk Queenslanders or to allow them to move somewhere else if the risk is too great.

Following our lead, we welcome the federal government's commitment of \$1.12 billion to get the Kuraby to Beenleigh faster rail project done. That is a rail project with a business case. We also need Canberra to get on board and back CopperString, the generational project that will connect our growing North West Minerals Province to the electricity grid and allow further growth for those regional communities out to Mount Isa for decades to come.

**Ms Simpson:** Why don't you support Maroochydhore rail?

**Mr DICK:** It didn't take long to get her off integrity.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Maroochydore, you know that comments should be directed through the chair. You are warned under the standing orders.

**Mr DICK:** Tonight's budget will no doubt contain updated projections on Queensland's surging population growth. What it must contain is Scott Morrison's clear commitment to back growth in Queensland and to give Queensland our fair share.