



Speech By  
**Hon. Cameron Dick**


**MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE**

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Record of Proceedings, 30 March 2022

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Federal Budget**

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (10.19 am): Scott Morrison is cutting funding to Queensland public hospitals. That is what the federal budget says, because that is what the LNP does. The \$21 million that our Queensland public hospitals got this year, they will not get next year. The cuts do not stop there. Scott Morrison is also cutting \$176 million—

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Mr DICK:** I take the interjection. Member for Nanango, you have a hide to interject.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! I called the House to order and the House did not come to order. That will be my last general warning to all members today. Treasurer, it would assist the House if you would direct your comments through the chair and not directly at other members.

**Mr DICK:** The cuts do not stop there. Scott Morrison is also cutting \$176 million from Queensland public hospitals in 2023-24 and 2024-25, compared to funding promised just four months ago. When it comes to a fair, fifty-fifty partnership with the federal government for health funding, under Scott Morrison you can forget it. Our nation is still in the pandemic. Across the nation, patients wait for treatment. Scott Morrison's answer is this: you can wait longer.

Let me say this about Scott Morrison's budget: Queensland has been duded, denied and done over, and Queenslanders will not forget. The LNP's federal budget failed to deliver Queensland our fair share of funding, and it is not just in health. We have heard a lot of announcements from Scott Morrison about vital road and rail projects. Guess what? Once again, it is all announcement and zero action. Just this month, Scott Morrison announced \$3.3 billion for Queensland road and rail infrastructure. Advice to me from the transport minister is that less than \$500 million of that announcement will be funded across the forward estimates. This is more dishonesty from a Prime Minister defined by deception.

What about the big water announcements from Scott Morrison? The \$5.4 billion Hells Gate Dam—he said it would be in the budget. The words are in the budget, just not the money. Budget Paper No. 2 reveals just \$1 billion will be allocated for National Water Grid project funding in the forward estimates. That is for the entire country. More deceit and tricks from a Prime Minister who has made that an absolute art form.

The political games and outright fabrications reach new heights when it comes to renewables. Billions of dollars in deals have been done with Liberal governments in New South Wales, Tasmania and the former Marshall government in South Australia. Once again, there is nothing for Queensland.

That includes for CopperString 2.0—another Queensland project left on the shelf by the Morrison government. This is a body blow for our state, and especially the north and north-west. I feel sorry for the member for Traeger as his is another community that has been taken for a ride by Scott Morrison.

Queenslanders will not take this disrespect lying down. Queenslanders have been scorned by Scott Morrison, and I believe they will pay him back in May. In the meantime, the Palaszczuk Labor government will continue to step up. We will deliver more solar, more wind and more renewable hydrogen. We will deliver more storage—with no thanks to the Morrison government.

That is why I am pleased to announce today that through our publicly owned generator, CS Energy, the Palaszczuk Labor government will deliver a \$150 million 100-megawatt battery on the Western Downs. The battery, to be built at the future energy hub next to the Kogan Creek Power Station, will be able to power 14,000 homes during the evening. Our renewable energy future is creating jobs, with up to 80 workers to be employed on this project during the course of construction. All those members from the west of the state can thank me later. The federal budget represents another missed opportunity for Queenslanders to get their fair share from the Morrison government.