




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Federal Budget

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (9.45 am): Last night's federal budget steps up to the challenges facing our nation. There are many good things in the federal budget for Queensland—cheaper child care, cheaper medicines and more affordable housing. After five long years where the federal LNP housing minister would not even convene a meeting of housing ministers, it is great to have a federal Labor government that has heard our government's call for united action to respond to the housing pressures facing the nation, a response that sees all levels of government working together with industry and big sources of capital like superannuation funds.

Queensland led the way with our partnership between the Queensland Investment Corporation, the Brisbane Housing Company and Queensland's own Australian Retirement Trust, harnessing superannuation investment to get more affordable housing onto the market. The Albanese Labor government has followed our lead with the establishment of the Housing Accord, bringing investors, industry and government together.

On health, we all remember the last LNP federal budget which cut funding to Queensland hospitals. In contrast, the Albanese Labor government has increased our health funding by \$1.1 billion over the forward estimates. Health funding going up instead of going down is a change we should all welcome. We also welcome the \$2.9 billion commitment to establish 50 Medicare urgent care clinics which will help more Queenslanders get to see a GP, taking pressure off public hospitals.

The Albanese Labor government's commitment to increasing childcare subsidies and expanding paid parental leave address major constraints on productivity. They will enable more women to get into the workforce and back into the workforce sooner.

We also welcome the budget support for road and infrastructure upgrades, like \$866 million for continued Bruce Highway upgrades, \$400 million for the inland freight route from Charters Towers to the New South Wales border, another \$400 million for beef corridors, and \$210 million for the Kuranda Range road upgrade.

This budget is framed at a time of unprecedented global instability and at a time when our nation faces unprecedented challenges. Unlike the Queensland budget, which has recorded the largest surplus on record, the federal government is burdened by nearly a trillion dollars of LNP debt and deficit. It is the legacy of a decade of roting, waste and pork-barrelling. Let me say that again: it is the legacy of a decade of roting, waste and pork-barrelling by the LNP. Sadly, the previous LNP government wasted billions on rorts in southern states, contributing to inflationary pressures and construction that must be addressed.

Mr Lister interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Southern Downs, you are warned under the standing orders. There is no need for those kind of outbursts.

Mr DICK: The federal budget forecasts show just how challenging the times ahead are for our nation. Continued inflationary pressures, the war in Europe and energy prices will test us all, but they also show that Queensland, under the Palaszczuk Labor government, will continue to be the powerhouse of the nation. We are as well placed as anywhere in Australia to deal with the challenges that lie ahead, to maintain and strengthen our great lifestyle, to deliver the better services and the good jobs that make Queensland the place to be.