




Speech By
Hon. Craig Crawford

MEMBER FOR BARRON RIVER

Record of Proceedings, 30 March 2022

MOTION

Federal Budget

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (4.44 pm): In the words of Monty Python, 'He's not the Messiah, he's a very naughty boy!' I want to thank the member for Everton for his rather remarkable speech.

As I rise to support this motion, you can hear the death rattle of a desperate Morrison government as far away as Far North Queensland. In Cairns, voters know that Scotty from Marketing is all show and no go. They can see beyond the Prime Minister and his slick talk about reef and tourism. This is a part of the state that has been devastated by ScoMo's botched handling of the global pandemic. Voters in Far North Queensland watched on as the federal budget was handed down, with that familiar feeling that yet again we have been duded, done over and denied our share in funding.

This was a budget for the next six weeks, not the next three years. Locals in Far North Queensland rightfully feel they have been left high and dry. In the words of advocacy group Advance Cairns, Far North Queensland missed out on several mega projects, including Cairns water security. The budget did not include major infrastructure projects sought by the region including: upgrades at the Cairns port, which is a \$300 million to \$400 million project; a new CBD campus for CQUniversity, which is a \$50 million project; and urban water security for the city of Cairns, which is a \$215 million project.

The budget shows that Scott Morrison's big promises about new dams for Queensland amount to nothing. Mayor Bob Manning has a right to be angry with Scott Morrison and Warren Entsch. He has missed out drastically on his push to get the federal coalition to commit to their share of the Cairns water security plan. I note that federal Labor has committed to this project if it stacks up.

This comes from a federal government that believes Toowoomba is at higher risk of being impacted by cyclones than Cairns. Federal Labor has said that it will support water security in Cairns if it stacks up. It has long been known that the Far North Queensland seat of Leichhardt is vulnerable, but all we are hearing from the outgoing federal LNP member, Warren Entsch, is crickets. Warren Entsch has arguably got six weeks to turn this around. I just do not think Warren has the support of his Prime Minister or his Treasurer.

Let me talk to the points in the motion. In health care, Scott Morrison will cut \$21 million from Queensland hospitals in the next financial year. The federal coalition is also cutting \$176 million from Queensland hospitals in 2023-24 and 2024-25. In flood recovery, there is no funding for Queensland's flood relief package and no funding for other important local disaster mitigation projects in FNQ. Federal Labor has committed to funding for projects in Far North Queensland, such as projects to prevent erosion in the Cairns northern beaches. There is no money in the budget for a new CQUniversity campus in Cairns. Federal Labor has committed \$50 million if it wins the election—

A government member: Hear, hear!

Mr CRAWFORD: I take the interjection from the member for Cairns.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order, members.

Mr Healy interjected.

Mr CRAWFORD: Well, whoever it was. I thank you for supporting the member for Cairns.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Cairns, you may not have interjected but you can still be warned.

Mr CRAWFORD: There is no money for marine infrastructure in the Torres Strait. Federal Labor have promised \$40 million if they win the election. On housing affordability, there is not any future funding in the budget for remote Indigenous housing. As Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, I find the lack of support for Indigenous housing particularly galling. There is not one cent towards remote Indigenous housing. Our remote, discrete Indigenous townships have been completely left out. This federal government signed up to all 17 Closing the Gap targets, but they walk away from their obligation to one of the most fundamental pieces of all—that is to reduce the impacts of overcrowding. There are arguably six weeks left. Warren Entsch has been in power in Leichhardt for some 25 years. Warren Entsch has six weeks to turn this around. Warren Entsch has six weeks to deliver or he should walk away.