




Speech By
James Lister

MEMBER FOR SOUTHERN DOWNS

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MOTION

Federal Morrison Government

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (5.46 pm): This government might think they are clever springing a motion like this on us. They all have their speeches written, but I do not need any preparation. I have it all down pat. I know every word by heart. Emu Swamp Dam—I see the minister sitting over there. Won't he tell us when they are going to approve Emu Swamp Dam?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Comments through the chair, please, member.

Mr LISTER: The federal government has contributed almost \$200 million to that project, yet the state government has contributed nothing but a measly \$13.6 million and we have not even seen all of that. The state government has to approve the project before it can proceed. The federal government has given us almost \$200 million towards that project, a project that will provide a secure water supply for the industry that provides jobs and prosperity for the people I represent. When we talk about a fair share, I ask: when is the state government going to come up with its fair share? When is this state government going to approve Emu Swamp Dam?

Mr Stevens: What has Albo promised them?

Mr LISTER: Albo's promises? 'Each way' Albo? I would not have a clue what he has been up to. Is it any wonder that the federal government looks at this rump and says, 'Why would we want to write them a blank cheque? Just because you say you need the extra money does not mean you've earned it.' I think of \$111 million to unprivatise two prisons. I think of \$250,000 to rename a hospital. I think about \$100,000 for weight loss for dogs. I think about \$45 million for a bike track to link two Labor electorates in Brisbane. So when the federal government looks at this Labor government in Queensland do honourable members think they are inclined to say, 'Oh yes, whatever you want. We'll keep subsidising your incompetence.' I do not think so. I think the federal government is not at all entertained by the financial management of the Labor government in Queensland.

I think about roads. We offer an 80-20 split to the Queensland government for funding roads in my electorate. If the federal government will provide 80 per cent of the cost of fixing the Cunningham Highway or the New England Highway in my electorate, why will the state government not accept it? They talk about their share, but they are only paying 20 per cent.

My constituents are saying to me, 'What about the housing crisis?' I can tell them that the housing crisis we see is all the doing of this Labor government because of the socialist inspired interventions in the housing market that have scared away homeowners who do not want to rent their places in case they are stuck with a bad tenant, in case they have a tenant who goes and modifies the property to any standard beneath that which requires council approval. There are no more people going out to invest in the housing market. They have been scared off and this is what has caused the housing crisis. This is a disaster of the state government's own making. For them to come in here and trot out the falsehoods that this is something to do with the federal government is disastrous; it is alarming. How can we take a single word that this government says seriously—this odious rump that sits over there?