




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR IPSWICH

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT

Ipswich Electorate, Federal Budget

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (2.53 pm): The federal budget was an opportunity to plan for the future, but instead we got a plan for the next election. This budget is a cynical attempt to buy votes in the hope that people will forget the last nine years of policy inertia, leadership failures, rorts and scandals. The one-off cash payments, tax rebates and the temporary six-month fuel excise cut has all come at the expense of long-term spending on critical infrastructure and services in Queensland.

Every budget that the coalition government delivers has fallen short when it comes to Ipswich. There has been no significant investment in our roads and transport infrastructure, our public hospital is straining under population growth and the neglectful investment in social housing leaves struggling families in housing stress.

Despite the massive construction boom in Ipswich suburbs like Ripley and Deebing Heights, more and more people are struggling to find an affordable place to live because of next to zero rentals available and rising costs of rents and mortgages. The recent floods left 550 houses in the Ipswich local government area damaged, and a number of families have been stuck in temporary accommodation, like motels, for weeks, yet Scott Morrison has failed to commit to Queensland's proposal for a joint \$771 million package to help Queensland flood victims recover from future floods. For Ipswich people on low incomes trying to find affordable housing, the situation is dire. Some families are forced to live with friends and relatives or are living out of their cars because their rental applications keep getting knocked back due to high demand.

Scott Morrison has decided he does not need votes from renters so he has abandoned them. He even stated that renters who are struggling with rising rents and needing rent relief should instead just buy a home. It was truly Morrison's 'let them eat cake' moment. Scott Morrison has abandoned funding for the National Rental Affordability Scheme, he has abandoned social housing funding, and he is not doing nearly enough for women who need secure housing after escaping domestic violence.

When it comes to investing in public health, Scott Morrison has duded Ipswich voters. The Ipswich Hospital urgently needs federal funding to help it manage the enormous pressure placed on it by population growth.

Shockingly, Scott Morrison is cutting \$21 million from Queensland's public hospitals next financial year, and he is cutting another \$176 million from Queensland hospitals in the following financial years, up to 2025. While the Palaszczuk government is delivering \$166.9 million for the Ipswich Hospital expansion, Scott Morrison is failing to stump up his share.

In this budget, I looked for big, bold transport infrastructure projects for Ipswich and found none. More than 88,000 Australians will move to Queensland by 2026, some six times more than any other state, but Queensland is only getting 10 per cent of total rail funding. Despite Scott Morrison spruiking \$680.6 million for the South East Queensland City Deal, no funding is actually being delivered over the next four years and it leaves projects like the Springfield to Ipswich rail corridor sitting in a state of limbo. Quite frankly, Scott Morrison has failed Ipswich in this budget.