




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles
MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

Record of Proceedings, 30 March 2022

MOTION

Federal Budget

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure) (4.12 pm): I rise to address and support the motion moved by the Premier. I had hopes there for a moment! The Leader of the Opposition stood up and said, 'We work best when we work together.' I thought that maybe something has changed. Maybe he is going to work together with us to get a fair share for Queensland. Maybe he is going to work together with us and say that we should get our fair share, but of course he cannot—his masters in Canberra are too powerful. They will not let him. He knows in his heart that the LNP federal government's budget does not give Queensland their fair share. He says that he will not bash Canberra. We are not asking him to bash Canberra; we are just asking him to ask Canberra. All we are asking is for them to support our efforts to get a fair share for Queensland.

I was one of the few people who listened in to a couple of the Leader of the Opposition's press conferences. Day after day he suggested that we should put together a resilience package. He even misled Queenslanders and suggested he was the only minister who had ever delivered a resilience package, which is actually not true. He suggested that we should have a resilience package and then, the day we announced that we would half-fund a resilience package, do members know how many times he has mentioned it since? None. There has been silence since then. Not once has he said that the LNP in Canberra should fund the other half of our resilience package. He says that he will support detailed, costed policies that deliver resilience. That is exactly what our resilient household recovery program will do, but there is not an ounce of support from those opposite. On health, housing, education and infrastructure Scott Morrison and the LNP have short-changed Queensland.

This budget includes a shameful \$21 million cut from hospital funding for Queensland next year, a \$176 million cut to Queensland hospitals over the forward estimates compared to the Morrison government's own MYEFO, its own last budget statement. Queenslanders know that the LNP only know how to do one thing when it comes to hospitals—to cut them. We know that we do not make health better by cutting its funding. When will they learn? The Leader of the Opposition said that he would resist any cut in health funding. Well, he should show us how he intends to resist. Issue a statement. Put out a press statement. Write a letter and release it to the public. He said that health is a state responsibility. Health is funded under a national partnership agreement between the states and territories and the Commonwealth. A national partnership agreement that was originally negotiated with a view to reaching 50 per cent funding of hospitals between the states and territories and the Commonwealth, a commitment to fifty-fifty funding, has been abandoned by the LNP. If the Leader of the Opposition has an ounce of honesty in his claim that he will resist cuts to funding for health, he should put out that statement, write the letter and release it.

Billions of dollars of funding in this budget went to renewable energy projects in New South Wales and in Tasmania but, once again, there is nothing for Queensland. Queensland is expected to have net interstate migration of 130,000 people in this budget, more than any other state and territory, but no funding for infrastructure to deal with that growth, no funding for the 17 flood mitigation projects, including upgrading the flood gauges, and no funding for Toowoomba Hospital.

Mr Dick interjected.

Dr MILES: I take that interjection: not a dollar. The LGAQ described the faults in the flood warning network as alarming. Gaps in the network mean Queensland communities are not getting accurate, vital information as swiftly as they should. What could be more important than that? In terms of the federal government's refusal to fund flood victims in Queensland to the same level as those in New South Wales, surely nothing else can get the opposition to support Queenslanders than the notion that in Lismore you deserve three times as much as you do in Queensland if your house flooded. That should be enough to prompt some action.

(Time expired)