




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

Record of Proceedings, 26 October 2022

MOTION

Rockhampton Ring Road

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure) (6.04 pm): Last night's federal budget delivers for Queensland and those opposite are willfully misrepresenting it. That is because we know they sat idly by and did and said nothing about the sports rorts and the car park rorts of the previous LNP government. They could not be bothered to pick up the phone to the federal health minister and say, 'Queensland isn't getting its fair share of the health budget.' They could not say a word. Under the LNP, people in our regions could not get in to see a GP when they needed one, forcing more pressure on to our public hospitals. Those opposite never said a word about that.

Mr MANDER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The point of order is on the point of relevance. This has absolutely nothing to do with the amended motion.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): I will take some advice. Resume your seat, please. Deputy Premier, I would ask you to come back to the substance of either the motion or the amendment.

Dr MILES: I will, Mr Deputy Speaker. You cannot turn around 10 years of LNP neglect overnight, but in this budget we can see the Albanese government starting to do that job. This motion is about roads, so let's look at what this budget delivers on roads in Queensland.

There is \$586 million to upgrade the Bruce Highway through Brisbane's outer northern suburbs and in Cairns there is \$210 million for the Kuranda Range road. This budget is good for Queensland, but we will keep fighting for more.

Unlike those opposite, we are not afraid to fight for Queensland regardless of who is in office, including the Rockhampton Ring Road. We will keep fighting for it because that is what fighting for Queensland looks like. It is what those opposite could never do. They were so beholden to their LNP masters, so afraid to upset them that they would never disagree; they would never argue for Queensland. Lucky for Rockhampton, they have some powerful advocates on their side.

The members for Rockhampton and Keppel are champions for Rocky. They know their community and how important this road is and they will fight for it. They secured the \$200 million in funding from the state government. They both have long records of achievement in their communities. They are great representatives, and that is why every election those communities reject the LNP and keep re-electing our members. Thanks to the members for Rockhampton and Keppel, this budget delivers for Central Queensland, including \$200 million—

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Kawana, you are warned.

Dr MILES:—for the Bruce Highway between Rockhampton and Gladstone. The budget invests in new health facilities, which I know is important to the Central Queensland community, thanks to the advocacy of the members for Rockhampton and Keppel. There is even \$6 million for Beef Week, which brings massive crowds to Rockhampton and showcases local projects.

I know, thanks to the advocacy of the members for Rockhampton and Keppel, that the people in Central Queensland want to see us build and maintain things here in Queensland like trains—not in India like those opposite did, but here in Queensland. They want to see us employing people here and training people here. I know from our members in Central Queensland that housing is a big issue, and in this budget the Albanese government steps up to deliver houses across Queensland, including in Central Queensland. That is something the LNP refused to do anything about—in fact, they made it worse—and again those opposite never said a word. They never said a word. They were too afraid to stand up to Scott Morrison.

Undoing a decade of LNP harm is a big task, but Anthony Albanese showed last night that they are up for that job, and Queenslanders are the big winners. It is incredible to see those members opposite finally finding their voices. For all those years they have praised federal budgets that ripped off Queenslanders. The LNP are only loyal to the LNP—not to Queenslanders. They never even said to their boss Morrison, ‘Please, sir, can we have some more?’ Now that Queensland is getting more, all of a sudden that is bad.

On this side of the House we will never, ever shy away from delivering for Queensland and fighting for Queensland. I know the member for Rockhampton will not stop, the member for Keppel will not stop, because fighting for Queensland is what we do on this side of the House.