



Speech By  
**Brittany Lauga**


**MEMBER FOR KEPPEL**

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Record of Proceedings, 16 November 2023

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Federal Labor Government, Infrastructure Funding**

 **Ms LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (2.17 pm): This afternoon we have heard from the member for Whitsunday about how she is shocked about domestic and family violence prevention services. I was incredibly shocked when, less than 24 hours after a woman was allegedly stabbed by her husband on Father's Day in a street in Frenchville, the shadow ministers of the opposition—

**Mrs GERBER:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I would ask that the member confirm that the matter is not sub judice and is not currently before the courts.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Martin): Member, will you confirm for the House that that is not currently before the courts?

**Ms LAUGA:** Mr Deputy Speaker, the matter is before the court. I am referring to the opposition's doorknocking in the street where the crime was allegedly committed.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I will get some advice. I will remind all members that you cannot refer to the actual event.

**Ms LAUGA:** Thank you for your guidance, Mr Deputy Speaker. A crime was committed in Frenchville and less than—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member, that is an event you have already mentioned which can be identified and then potentially used by either side in a court case, so in this case I would advise you to move on from that.

**Ms LAUGA:** I would suggest that those opposite need to pay some respect and not be out doorknocking in communities that are grieving and are victims of crime in their own right.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms LAUGA:** Less than 24 hours. Every single member on this side of the House is extremely disappointed with the outcome of the Commonwealth government's infrastructure review. The Palaszczuk government has made it very clear to the Commonwealth that now is not the time to cut infrastructure in Queensland, but the difference between us and those opposite is that we on this side of the chamber stand up for Queensland while those opposite do not. When the federal government takes aim on Queensland, we stand up against it. We fight to make sure Queensland gets its fair share. When the federal LNP introduced legislation to force Queensland to sell its public assets, it was Labor that stood up to fight. When the federal LNP cut \$316 million from Queensland hospitals in 2019, it was Labor that stood up to fight. When the federal LNP cut our fair share of GST, it was us on this side that stood up to fight. When the federal LNP tried to compulsorily acquire thousands of hectares of grazing land at Marlborough, it was Labor that stood up to fight.

What did those opposite do? Absolutely nothing. They did not pick up the phone to their federal buddies. They did not write letters to their LNP ministers. They did nothing. I am certain that their inaction was not just laziness; it was apathy. They just do not care about Queenslanders, and their lack of action when our state has come under attack is evidence of that. The standard you walk past is the standard you accept. Those opposite have not only ignored the attacks on Queensland by their federal LNP counterparts over the years; they just do not care.

We on this side of the House will not stand idle as the federal government cuts critical infrastructure projects from our state. I am pleased to be part of a government that stands up for Queensland. We have no issue whatsoever with picking up the phone and telling our federal counterparts exactly what we think about these cuts—in fact, our federal counterparts know to expect it of us. We want the roads and the rail that Queenslanders have been promised. We want the Bruce Highway to be given the priority funding it deserves as the backbone of Queensland's thriving regional communities and industries. Do not cut from Queensland.

*(Time expired)*