



Speech By  
**Charis Mullen**


**MEMBER FOR JORDAN**

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Record of Proceedings, 15 November 2023

**MOTION**

**Infrastructure**

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (4.40 pm): I am pleased to rise in support of the motion by the Deputy Premier. I want to start my contribution by quoting a great song by Whitesnake. Don't worry, I am not going to sing it, but it is a good one. The words go—

Here I go again on my own

Going down the only road I've ever known

I think it really sums up those opposite. There is only one road they ever know, one mode of operation, and that is to cut. I think it really sums them up. Already we are seeing this playing out. I think we should be a little more grateful that those opposite are at least giving Queenslanders a little hint of what is to come, unlike last time. We already know that they will not honour progressive coal royalties, so that is \$7 billion of cuts right there. We know that the member for Chatsworth already said in a radio interview in March—

We know at the moment that if you look at the budget we have got areas where we've already identified a couple of billion dollars worth of savings. At the moment there are a range of areas that we know already that we could prune things back.

Okay, so we have that on the record. Of course we have the LNP's plans to create a new Productivity Commission to identify further cuts targeting transport, utilities and social infrastructure, like housing—because, of course, their last Commission of Audit was so successful, with \$5.5 billion worth of cuts. Woo hoo! If you believe success is sacking 14,000 public servants, recommending the selling of Queensland assets and wrecking Queensland's economy on your way through, then, yes, what a success. The LNP have already predetermined \$10 billion worth of projects they do not like, so the new Productivity Commission under them already has a head start.

I do like that the Leader of the Opposition, when publishing online his cuts list of infrastructure projects, made the effort to include a cute emoji for each project. If he is looking for productivity savings, can I suggest the member for Broadwater not worry about the emojis. For growing regions like mine where we are seeing significant population growth through internal interstate migration, I can say that we want more infrastructure, not less. We want Cross River Rail because we know that this will allow us to open up the network in the city centre and ensure that rail extensions—like the Springfield to Ipswich rail line and the Salisbury to Flagstone rail line—can be progressed. We want the Centenary Bridge and more upgrades to the Centenary Highway to ensure that those living in my electorate can get to and from their families faster each and every day. We want satellite hospitals, expansions to our major hospitals and new hospitals like the Mater Springfield public hospital to ensure that everyone can have quality health care close to where they live. I tell you what we do not want: an LNP in government fixated on an ideological bent once again to cut, sack and sell everything in their sight.