




Speech By
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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Federal Budget; Cost of Living

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (3.15 pm): The federal budget is being announced tonight. Traditionally, from that side of the House we would hear ministerial statement after ministerial statement; in fact, I reckon all questions from those opposite would have been about what we should expect in that Australian budget. However, it has been eerily quiet from that side of the House today.

Who can forget, though, in 2021 when we had media release after media release from the Treasurer himself? It was not so much what the government was asking for, it was nearly extortionate in its threats at the federal government at the time, the Liberal-National coalition. Who can forget in that media release there were nearly two pages of demands for the federal government, yet this time we have crickets. In that media release in 2021 it said of the then prime minister that ‘he needs to pay up and deliver for Queensland’.

It is funny, when it came to the budget in 2022, when the federal Labor government cut water projects across the state, all we got from that side of the House was crickets. When Hell’s Gate got cut, reprofiled, there was silence; there was nothing from that side of the House. When Urannah Dam got cut or reprofiled, there was silence; there was nothing from that side of the House. The Hughenden Irrigation Project—there was absolutely nothing from that side of the House. Fifty-fifty health funding—nothing from that side of the House.

We have seen time and again when it comes to the Treasurer and the state Labor government, it is always about the politics. It is always about the politics when it comes to the federal budget. I am looking forward to it. We saw the 90-day review from the federal infrastructure minister, Catherine King—that is the beginning—and the potential threats to key Queensland infrastructure projects. Let’s see what the budget delivers tonight, but I am guessing from the Treasurer and the Labor government there is just going to be silence.

There is another area where we have seen absolute silence from the Palaszczuk Labor government and the Treasurer. We have seen today a few cherry-picked economic indicators, but we have seen silence from the Palaszczuk Labor government and the Treasurer in respect of one important issue of consequence to the Queensland people and that issue is the cost-of-living crisis. Queensland is ground zero for the cost-of-living crisis in this country. What we get from that side of the House is silence.

Last week we had ABS numbers released. The ABS numbers revealed that there was a 32 per cent increase in power prices in Queensland for the quarter, and we had a promise 150 times from that side of the House that power prices would be reduced. Nothing but silence from the Treasurer. We had healthcare costs go up 5.4 per cent for the last quarter, yet we still have the Treasurer backing his patient tax. We have seen some advertisements in the *Courier-Mail*. Most times the Treasurer loves advertisements in newspapers across the country because it is photos of him handing out hard-earned taxpayer dime to billionaires—tens of millions of dollars to the billionaires of Australia.

Let's focus on what matters to real Queenslanders. Real Queenslanders care about the cost of living and the cost to see the doctor. We have seen those advertisements. I will table that for the House. In a quarter where healthcare costs have gone up 5.4 per cent, the Treasurer is still backing his patient tax, and it will cost Queenslanders more to see the doctor.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'Queensland Government: It's time to listen! Queenslanders need Bulk Billing' [609](#).

Tabled paper: Media release, dated 9 May 2021, by the then Premier and Minister for Trade, Hon. Annastacia Palaszczuk, and the then Treasurer and Minister for Investment, Hon. Cameron Dick, titled 'Time for Scott Morrison to deliver for Queensland' [610](#).

Then there was the 3.4 per cent increase for housing costs. In the Far North we have seen, since the Palaszczuk government was elected, a 60 per cent year-on-year decrease in residential lots being approved. We have seen infrastructure falling behind. We see key projects that have just not been prepared.

In the budget in a month's time, we want to see as much support given to this region as possible in cost-of-living support, but until this government addresses the underlying problems for the cost of living, get on top of the crime crisis to drive down insurance premiums, deliver infrastructure in lots into the market to drive down housing costs, and to keep a lid on healthcare costs, they will never understand the true impact, the real lived experience of those in the Queensland economy. They are not listening, they are not acting and they fail to understand the real cost of their failures on the cost of living.