




Speech By  
**Steve Minnikin**

**MEMBER FOR CHATSWORTH**

---

Record of Proceedings, 15 March 2023

**MOTION: GABBA REDEVELOPMENT**

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (5.58 pm): I may have lost my hair, but I certainly have not lost my sense of humour. I love going not too far from here to the Comedy Club and having a good drink and a good laugh, but, I tell you what, you only have to come here and listen to ministerial statements. There was another classic comedy club comment by the Premier yesterday during ministerial statements. I quote directly from *Hansard* where the Premier said—

Deloitte has recommended a Brisbane 2032 Coordination Office. It recognises the state government's existing expertise in delivering infrastructure like roads, schools and hospitals.

I have to say that being lectured to by the Premier on infrastructure and project management is a bit like a tourism welcome from North Korea. Honourable members should remember that this is the Premier who on FM radio about five or six years ago when she was asked, 'What's the GST rate?' had absolutely no idea. This is the Premier who about 12 years ago when she was the transport minister actually increased public transport fares by 15 per cent in three consecutive years.

**Ms Pease** interjected.

**Mr MINNIKIN:** When it comes to actually taking instructions about project management from either the Premier or perhaps the member for Lytton, I would rather refer to the expertise of those on this side.

I will pick up the thread of the member for Everton. Let's have a look at what the cost of the Gabba is really going to be in terms of the cost per seat. If we look at Optus Stadium in Perth, it is \$21,270 per seat. If we look elsewhere we will find that the Sydney football stadium is just under \$19½ thousand per seat. The Country Bank Stadium in Townsville is \$12½ thousand per seat, but wait for it, the Gabba, Brisbane—drum roll not required—is \$54,000.

Is it any wonder that the member for Miller is hot under the collar looking for a piece of the budget pie action? Maybe that is to bail himself out of his own mess called Cross River Rail. Every time he gets anywhere near a crayon, he tries to draw a big line between the stadium and Cross River Rail to try to spool in some of the money there. Is it any wonder because when we look at the existing projects and budget blowouts someone would have to be pretty special to have their own hashtag on social media. We have the situation with Gold Coast Light Rail stage 3A, which has a \$509 million blowout; there is Cross River Rail, \$2.6 billion; there is Coomera Connector, \$633 million.

In the interests of time I will simply round it up and say this. Out of the \$10 billion of budget blowouts in project costs, the department of the member for Miller, who received a 41 per cent primary vote and who desperately needs Greens preferences, has alone accounted for \$4.15 billion. We have a Premier who we know wants to make this all about herself and we have people in her cabinet who truly would be flat out telling the time. There is no backbench talent there at all, so what is the Labor Party going to do? Here is one other little tip. It is called economics 101. It is a little print called the time value of money. What I will do is literally multitask on the fly and do a little bit of budgeting ALP style

where you do not even get a back of an envelope; you get a bunch of post-it notes. You just go, 'A billion there, half a billion there,' and keep going. They have absolutely no idea when it comes to budget management.

We have the situation now where, if they do not start to get it together, they will run out of time. There is one thing you cannot buy, and I keep saying it. You cannot buy time. The Lord Mayor was right when around three months ago he said he was getting concerned about the fact we are starting to miss the cue; we are starting to miss the essential drop points.

**Mr Hinchliffe** interjected.

**Mr MINNIKIN:** If anyone should be silent and not interject in this debate it should be the member for Sandgate. Here is the genius member who was trotted out so they had someone who could go up in an elevator to try to press the need for it. They actually had \$35 million in the 2019-20 capital statement to put towards the Gabba toilets.

*(Time expired)*