




Speech By
Hon. David Janetzki

MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Infrastructure, Costs

 **Hon. DC JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Treasurer, Minister for Energy and Minister for Home Ownership) (9.44 am): It is highly likely that the Crisafulli government has inherited an outlook downgrade and ultimately a credit rating downgrade. On taking office we discovered fiscal settings burdened with project overruns, cost blowouts and ballooning debt. For the awareness of all in the House, here are some of the hidden project overruns that the former Labor government left the incoming government with: the Sunshine Coast and Chandler Olympics venues, \$181 million over budget even before they started; an additional \$500 million to connect the Brisbane arena to the surrounding area—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members, only one person has the call and it is the member for Toowoomba South.

Mr JANETZKI: Cross River Rail has \$494 million in fresh overruns; Gold Coast light rail, up \$330 million; hospital capital upgrades, up a total of \$1.37 billion; the CopperString transmission project, up to \$9 billion; the Pioneer-Burdekin project, up from \$12 billion to \$36.8 billion; and the Borumba pumped hydro project we now know will cost over \$18 billion, which is up from \$14.2 billion. All of that has led to Queensland Treasury warnings in the incoming Treasury brief of a 'strong likelihood of large structural deficits', a 'significant and growing debt burden that won't stabilise', a 'heightened risk of credit rating downgrades' and a 'concerning increase in the interest burden likely to exceed critical thresholds'. Those opposite left a budget in place that 'presents a challenge to achieving fiscal sustainability'.

Before all the hidden project cost overruns and cost blowouts, Queensland was on track to reach \$172 billion in 2027-28, with interest repayments at the end of the forwards totalling more than \$7.7 billion. As I said, that was even before Labor's hidden cost project overruns.

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Woodridge, I have already cautioned you. If I do it again you will be warned.

Mr JANETZKI: These are serious challenges and that is why my first official meeting as Queensland Treasurer was with Standard & Poor's. They have flagged their concerns in the past with language like 'waning fiscal discipline' and 'downward pressure on the rating'. What was the response of those opposite? It was \$1.4 billion a year to deliver school lunches. It was another state owned energy retailer. It was state owned general practices. It was state owned service stations.

We will not be doing any of that. I sought to reassure Standard & Poor's that a serious, calm and methodical government was now in place. We will take their advice seriously. Unlike those opposite, we know that this is a serious issue. On the cold hard metrics used by the ratings agencies, Queensland's performance has become equivalent or inferior to some of the states and territories that have received recent outlook downgrades.

We know windfall revenues have peaked in the short term. Compared to 2023-24, revenue is expected to decline further this financial year due to the impact of global coal prices and weakening GST revenue. Combined with the project overruns and cost blowouts we have inherited, it adds pressure to our fiscal settings and our debt trajectory. After a decade of Labor neglect and irresponsible fiscal management, we face significant headwinds. However, we will approach Labor's fiscal vandalism calmly and methodically because Queensland deserves nothing less.