



Speech By  
**Hon. Brent Mickelberg**


**MEMBER FOR BUDERIM**

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Record of Proceedings, 18 November 2025

**MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**CFMEU**

 **Hon. BA MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (2.20 pm): During the decade of decline we saw under those opposite, we saw a shift in power from those duly elected by the people of Queensland to those unelected union thugs home at the CFMEU. It was the union, not the government, that was in control of worksites in Queensland. They set the policies. They said who could and could not work. They bullied and intimidated workplace health and safety officers until they got their way.

We have heard many times how this has impacted projects like the Centenary Bridge—70 days of delay or disruption due to CFMEU-led action. That action includes physical threats to workers and blocking deliveries to sites. It cost Queensland taxpayers. Things became so bad on that job that they had to employ additional security personnel and install CCTV systems. This was needed to protect staff from violent and bullying behaviour by the CFMEU. I have personally spoken to workers onsite who have described their reaction to being exposed to that conduct by the CFMEU. Then we have the Cross River Rail project and what we saw there.

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I can hear the member for McConnel interjecting—the CFMEU cheerleader. There were more than 140 days lost onsite at Cross River Rail due to the CFMEU. We saw union thugs preventing workers from entering the site to earn a living to feed their families. Today we have heard testimony describing the CFMEU's bullying and thuggery on Cross River Rail as stock standard CFMEU tactics. The barrage of abuse on job sites was stock standard CFMEU tactics, written and endorsed by those opposite—people like the member for McConnel. Labor forgot that the workers they claim to represent should have come first. They chose to side with unions like the CFMEU who put them in power rather than those workers they should have been representing. It was not just construction workers who were the victims of their political games.

I want to talk about the workers in my department, the Department of Transport and Main Roads. Let us not forget the CFMEU's shameful conduct in storming the offices of TMR at 61 Mary Street. Under those opposite, violent thugs barged into a QTRIP briefing with industry facilitated by Transport and Main Roads staff, leaving staff hiding in the building, concerned about their personal safety. We remember that the then premier made public declarations about not meeting with the CFMEU, but those who currently sit opposite maintained their open-door policy. People like the member for Aspley—the then minister for transport and main roads—met with the CFMEU regularly after that incident.

Imagine if you were a worker in TMR and you saw your minister welcome these thugs with open arms. What would you think? I know what I would think. It was not just the former minister for transport and main roads who did this. The former, former minister for transport and main roads also met with the CFMEU multiple times during his time as minister. We would describe it as foolish if it were not so serious.

Then we have the member for McConnel, the former minister supposedly responsible for industrial relations, who was 'as shocked as anybody' about the allegations of criminality within the CFMEU. The now Deputy Premier had been raising these exact issues for years and years, but it fell on deaf ears with those opposite because they did not want to listen. We even have members who still sit opposite—members such as the member for Bancroft—who are paid-up members of the CFMEU. That is why those opposite are here. This close relationship is how we ended up with BPIC—the CFMEU tax. Those opposite chose to side with the CFMEU rather than side with Queenslanders, and as a consequence we ended up with BPIC—the CFMEU tax—which drove up project costs by 25 per cent and created an economic cost for Queenslanders of more than \$17 billion.

Given that we know that those opposite have close connections with the CFMEU, I have to ask Queenslanders what would happen if those opposite were to return to the government benches. We would see a return to cost overruns and budget blowouts overseen by those opposite. We would see a return of the bullying, intimidation and thuggery writ large by the CFMEU day in and day out on Queensland job sites. Queenslanders deserve more than a government owned and bought by the CFMEU. We will fight for workers every single day.