




Speech By
Dr Christian Rowan

MEMBER FOR MOGGILL

Record of Proceedings, 4 April 2019

MOTION

Federal Budget

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (12.23 pm): I rise to oppose Labor's motion. In the 56th Parliament we have seen gag orders by this Labor government opposite, but today it has lifted the gag order for us to have a proper debate and understand what the federal coalition government is delivering for not only Australia but also Queensland. This debate is important because we will be able to put some facts on the record in the House today. The federal Morrison LNP coalition government is delivering a strong economy and it is delivering border security as well. As we have heard, the budget is back in the black and that is important for Australia and it is important for Queensland. This federal budget will deliver tax cuts particularly for low- and middle-income earners.

For the information of those opposite, those tax cuts will mean that people will spend money in the economy, and that is important. That will be important for small business. It will be important for our economy overall not just here in Queensland but across Australia. It is projected that 2.26 million Queenslanders will receive tax relief in the 2018-19 financial year and 670,000 small and medium sized businesses will be eligible for instant asset write-offs, and that is pretty important for small business. I know that those members opposite do not support small business, but it is important for businesses here in Queensland. Those opposite do not care about small businesses. They do not understand small business. They do not understand how it operates. The fact is that small business can employ people.

This budget is also full of infrastructure spending. Let us take the Urban Congestion Fund. It is up to \$4 billion from \$1 billion. That is important for infrastructure projects here in Queensland. There is also \$500 million for a commuter car park fund which will improve access to public transport. I know many members opposite do not support public transport, but particularly in the western suburbs of Brisbane it is important that we get people on public transport so we can address traffic congestion.

Importantly, the federal government has funded a royal commission into the disability sector. The Palaszczuk government will not negotiate in good faith when it comes to remote Indigenous housing. This Labor government has not or will not negotiate in good faith to sign the national partnership agreement. We have already seen this government attack the Family Responsibilities Commission in North Queensland and what that has done for remote Indigenous communities. It would not fund the IDEAS van—a great initiative with respect to closing the gap. If we look at the national *Closing the gap* report, Queensland is well and truly behind other state jurisdictions. Those opposite might talk about closing the gap, but when it comes to achieving practical outcomes they need to be open and transparent and accountable. The minister here in Queensland needs to be accountable for that. In relation to health, in the federal coalition government's budget there was \$461 million for youth mental health and suicide prevention, and that is very important. Health funding for Queensland increases by \$1.1 billion between 2019-20 and 2022-23. There are also education funding increases by the federal government.

Alternatively, let us look at the Palaszczuk government. It is heading towards over \$83 billion in debt by 2021-22. We have one of the highest unemployment rates in the nation sitting at 5.7 per cent. We do not have funding in relation to infrastructure from this Labor government, particularly in the western suburbs of Brisbane. In terms of health, it is a pleasure to follow the member for Murrumba, the health minister, in this debate. Let us look at the emergency department overcrowding, access block, a lack of beds, rural maternity services in crisis, longer surgical waitlists, and the Halwyn Centre debacle where the health department could not even have proper discussions and notify those residents of the health department's impending closure. There is all of the waste that is going on—the renaming of the Lady Cilento hospital, the 'rail fail' debacle, the overtime bill, the \$100,000 for a phone app for fat dogs! It is just unbelievable.

What about the Warrego Highway-Mount Crosby interchange? The Minister for Transport and Main Roads cannot even get a business case together and his federal colleague Shayne Neumann, the federal member for Blair, has called him out in relation to that. Do members remember the Beattie and Bligh years—the \$1.2 million payroll debacle, the child safety debacles and an election in 2004 around that, the fake Tahitian prince's \$16 million funding fraud in the health department and the failed desalination plants that the member for Clayfield mentioned? Imagine if Bill Shorten is elected. We will have industrial relations warfare, the economy will be out of control and his property tax and the negative gearing changes will force property prices down and increase rent. Just think about the failed Rudd-Gillard-Rudd years. We had pink batts, the debacle around school halls and its failed economic management.