

Question on Notice
No. 595
Asked on 12 September 2012

MR WELLINGTON asked the Premier (MR NEWMAN)—

With reference to the Premier's answer to my last question on notice about the need to continue the upgrade of the railway line from Landsborough to Nambour—

Will the Premier raise this project with the Prime Minister to see if new federal funding may be made available to assist with the construction of this project?

ANSWER:

The Honourable Member continues to ask questions about this project, but has still not raised this issue properly with the State Government.

This Government believes that the Federal Government needs to fund its fair share of infrastructure projects in Queensland and we will continue to push the case for increased funding to the Prime Minister.

As a key supporter of the former Labor government, the Member for Nicklin must accept his fair share of the blame for the debt and financial problems of the Queensland Government. Because Labor lost the State Government's AAA credit rating and amassed a debt that was projected to reach \$100 billion by 2018-19, the State Government has been forced to allocate ever increasing amounts to paying interest on its debt. The interim report of the Queensland Commission of Audit indicated that "interest costs to service this debt are running at \$3.5 billion in the Total Government sector in 2011-12, climbing to \$5.3 billion or 9% of revenue in 2015-16."

The interim report also said that "in recent years, the Government of Queensland embarked on an unsustainable level of spending which has jeopardised the financial position of the State. Queensland has moved from a position of considerable financial strength just six years ago to a position of weakness today. Its performance has been worse than the other states over that period."

These are all issues, which the Government I lead has been elected to deal with and that will require support from the Member for Nicklin to address. Given his interest in the Landsborough to Nambour rail upgrade project, I trust the Honourable Member now supports the hard decisions we have taken in the budget and will work with us to get Queensland moving.