



Speech By
Mark Robinson

MEMBER FOR CLEVELAND

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ADJOURNMENT

Redlands, Eastern Busway

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Cleveland—LNP) (11.56 pm): One of the biggest infrastructure projects that the people of Cleveland and Redlands want to see happen is the Eastern Busway. Brisbane City deputy mayor, Adrian Schrinner, and I have put the busway back on the agenda by launching a petition. Already almost 900 people have signed it electronically on the parliamentary website. I encourage all residents of Brisbane and Redland City to support Councillor Schrinner and me: sign the petition on the parliamentary website or a paper copy of it.

On 24 July 2011 the *Brisbane Times* ran a story titled 'Eastern Busway on the skids' saying—

Completion of the Eastern Busway in Brisbane is in doubt, with no new funding available and the project now slated as a 'concept'.

Under Labor, both state and federal, the busway was reduced to a concept and was unfunded. The *Redland City Bulletin* ran a story on 27 May, 2015 titled 'Eastern Busway back on agenda' correctly stating—

Cleveland MP, Mark Robinson, has taken up the challenge and put the 'ditched' Eastern Busway back on the state government agenda.

State and federal Labor governments effectively ditched the busway in 2011 when they removed the 2026 end date and had no plan to fund it with state or federal spending in the forward estimates. An earlier story in the *Brisbane Times* shows that Labor's ditching of the busway was a broken promise to the people of Queensland. In the piece titled 'Busway won't need federal cash: Bligh', then premier Anna Bligh said—

The future of the total 18-kilometre project did not hinge on federal government cash. It is currently in the South-East Queensland infrastructure program for 2026 and federal funding will just bring it forward.

Premier Palaszczuk, the then transport minister, was present and in agreement with then premier Bligh at the phase 2 opening to continue the busway 'whether or not we get the Commonwealth on board', was what was said. Both Labor premiers agreed the state would pay for it and it would be built by 2026 even if no federal funds were forthcoming. Did we see that in their forward estimates for 2012 and beyond? No. Did they match their rhetoric with the funding to keep it moving? No. They ditched it in 2011 after promising to fund it totally themselves.

When the LNP came into government in 2012, the then federal Labor government rejected further funding applications by the LNP government to continue the busway. Now Labor is back in government and I say to the current state government: no more excuses, no more blaming the feds, no more blaming the LNP. Get on with it and build it with state funds as previous Labor premiers and transport ministers committed to do.