



Speech By
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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Cleveland Electorate, Infrastructure

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Cleveland—LNP) (12.23 pm): I rise to speak about three infrastructure and planning issues critical to the hundreds of thousands of people who live in east and south-east Brisbane, particularly Redland City and my electorate of Cleveland, that need to be addressed in today's budget, that is, the Eastern Busway, Toondah Harbour and North Stradbroke Island. On budget eve the government is supersensitive about public transport infrastructure such as the Eastern Busway. This morning the Deputy Premier raised the issue of the Eastern Busway, but again without stating what the government plans to do. I thank the Deputy Premier for mentioning the Eastern Busway petition from myself and Brisbane Deputy Mayor Adrian Schinnerer, which I believe was tabled in the parliament today. In a short period, over 1,269 Queenslanders signed the petition electronically and on paper. It is clear that this public transport project is still important to byside Brisbanites and the people of Cleveland.

Last sitting week in a speech I noted that it was the Bligh Labor government that kicked the Eastern Busway into the long grass when it failed to fund it beyond 2011 in the forward estimates. It was Anna Bligh, with the member for Inala and then transport minister at her side, who said that Labor would build the busway with state government funds alone and that no federal funds were needed, only to bring the project forward. The Deputy Premier does not want Queenslanders to remember that Labor promise. Isn't it interesting that, after the Deputy Premier attacked the LNP for the eastern transit-way improvements, the Deputy Premier is now talking about 'bus lanes' instead of 'busways'. The busway e-petition shows that Queenslanders still want it built, but is the government listening? I guess we will see later today.

Toondah Harbour is potentially one of the biggest job-creating projects in the history of Redland City. Unfortunately, for almost three decades successive state Labor governments have done nothing about it. With the formation of the first LNP government, this iconic project was planned with the Redland City Council and the Walker group. Two rounds of consultation were conducted, a business case was developed for a \$1.3 billion PPP, design work was completed and the project now only needs to go through EIS and federal EPPBC processes. While I was relieved to see the project recently re-announced, I am concerned about one aspect of the project: the management and slow pace of the project under this Labor government. Without the LNP government's economic development legislation that provided for PDAs, this project would not have happened. Since Labor came to power, for five months the project has sat gathering dust and is now behind schedule. That has caused a loss of business confidence in the area and people have held off investing in and growing their businesses and employing people as a direct result. The people of Cleveland are keen that Labor pick up the pace and get this important project back on track and avoid further delays.

The third issue that I want to raise is the carefully planned economic transition plan from sandmining on North Stradbroke mining to a diverse economy, which is a very important issue. The people of North Stradbroke Island are outraged that once again a Labor government has announced, without consultation, that it plans to prematurely end sandmining by 2019 and, in so doing, to sack up to 600 workers—up to 600 workers—in mining, small business and tourism, including up to 50 Quandamooka Indigenous workers. Since this announcement was made, due to the community's outrage I have started a petition to ask the government to slow down and consult the people of North Stradbroke Island. The petition, called 'Save Straddie jobs', can be found on the parliament website. I have also written to the Premier and appeal to her today to hit the pause button and talk to the people. The Chamber of Commerce was not consulted, the AWU and the workers were not consulted and it is time for this Premier, who claims to be a listening Premier, to come and listen to the people.

However, if the government is hell-bent on this and will not listen to the people, it must bring forward major investment into the island, starting with this budget. Hundreds of millions of dollars will need to be spent from 2015 onwards. Projects such as the \$10 million redevelopment of Dunwich Harbour become absolutely critical in this budget. An upgrade of the Dunwich ferry terminal and tourism and retail areas are critical. In this budget I will be watching for key initiative projects such as the Eastern Busway, the Toondah Harbour development and North Stradbroke Island to make sure that the government does the right thing.

(Time expired)