



Speech By
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MEMBER FOR CLEVELAND

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APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Cleveland—LNP) (4.24 pm): I rise to speak to the estimates report of the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee with respect to the Appropriation Bill. The Palaszczuk Labor government's second budget is best characterised as a budget of raids, writedowns and rip-offs with no long-term cohesive economic plan to create jobs and grow the Queensland economy.

With respect to infrastructure, in yet another display of a lack of transparency the true costs of the Cross River Rail project—the government's No. 1 infrastructure priority—have been hidden and Queenslanders are still in the dark about who will fill the financial hole for a tunnel without trains. The opposition tabled a document during the proceedings that showed many billions of dollars have been excluded from Building Queensland's financial and affordability assessment of the Cross River Rail project. This funding shortfall relates to the trains required to provide the additional services. Unfortunately, the Deputy Premier was more concerned about where the document came from than explaining how she would fund the black hole for the project. It is indicative of this government's failure that its No. 1 infrastructure priority remains unfunded with no funds for trains nor operating the stations and maintenance of the trains.

Labor wants to have a conversation with Queenslanders about the funding but will not release details of the secret business case containing six new taxes to fund the \$4.6 billion black hole. The CEO of Building Queensland would not say whether the \$1 billion benefited area levy or the \$2 billion public transport levy modelled in the Cross River Rail business case were new taxes. He also refused to say how many households would be slugged with the public transport levy, expected to raise \$2.6 billion. Although the 2016-17 budget has been billed as an infrastructure budget, it fails to deliver any major new infrastructure projects. This is most apparent in Cleveland and Redland city, where Labor's infrastructure freeze on major projects continues now for two budgets.

In terms of trade, on the issue of establishing a third trade office in China, the acting CEO of Trade & Investment Queensland admitted that no analysis had been done. Taxpayer funds are being directed into a new trade office in Chengdu over other markets without analysis by Trade & Investment Queensland, a body which employs 128 full-time staff and which will receive over \$35 million in 2016-17. How can that be?

In terms of local government, the director-general advised that the standard process for investigating complaints about a local government office bearer regarding misconduct is for the complaint first to be investigated by the council CEO and then referred to the director-general to determine whether further investigation is required under the Crime and Corruption Act. The director-general confirmed that this standard process was not followed during the 2016 local government election campaign when Brisbane City Council Lord Mayor Graham Quirk was referred to the Crime and Corruption Commission. In this instance, the director-general referred Councillor Quirk

without a completed investigation from the CEO. Labor's practice is clearly unacceptable, and we await the outcome of the government's review into the councillor complaint process and expect the findings of the review to be released to the Queensland public.

In terms of state development, the LNP remains concerned about the \$248 million underspend on capital works for the Commonwealth Games venues. Many economic benefits will be lost if the venues are not ready in accordance with the original schedule so that trial events and training camps can be held. This massive underspend, which is 75 per cent of the budget, will impact on business development, economic growth and job creation.

In terms of natural resources and mines, the LNP opposition is concerned about the return of cases of coalminers pneumoconiosis in Queensland. The director-general confirmed that concerns about potential coal dust exposure had not been raised by industry safety and health representatives nor by the CFMEU with the department or the Mines Inspectorate in the lead-up to the very concerning diagnosis of recent incidents.

In terms of housing and public works, the rollout of QBCC's service delivery transformation has been at a slow pace, meaning only 39 per cent of insurance claims for defective work were assessed and responded to within 35 days. There are many other aspects of the estimates process that I could comment on, but I thank the secretariat and the members for their hard work.