



Speech By
Andrew Powell

MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE

Record of Proceedings, 26 November 2019

MOTION

Federal Government, Infrastructure Funding

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (11.58 am): As highlighted by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Queensland has the highest unemployment rate of any jurisdiction in Australia. Despite that we have a government, a Labor government, completely and utterly frozen with indecision. We have a government, a Labor government, that has so destroyed the state's finances it cannot and will not invest in infrastructure throughout the state. We have a government, a Labor government, bereft of plans and bereft of projects that would build the infrastructure that this state needs, let alone address the unemployment rate mentioned by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

Thank God for Scott Morrison and the federal coalition government, because without them none of those projects would be occurring. It is very clear that the Prime Minister cares more about the Queensland unemployment rate than those opposite do. He cares more about the Queensland unemployment rate than the Premier of Queensland herself does and definitely more than the Deputy Premier and Treasurer does. The Prime Minister has stepped up and filled the void left by this incompetent Labor government.

I will put some facts on the table. Let us take the north coast rail duplication project that until 2009 a state Labor government had committed to fully fund. That project was going to be fully funded. There was going to be 100 per cent state funding for the north coast rail duplication. Within months of the election of an LNP member to the seat of Glass House, the project was pulled completely and the money was diverted to Springfield and Redcliffe, never to be seen again. I point out that it was to be 100 per cent funded by the state.

When the federal government comes along and offers 50 per cent, surely those opposite would grab it with glee? That is 50 per cent more than any federal government of any political persuasion has ever promised or committed to a state project. Instead, what do we get? A measly 20 per cent and then bickering, whingeing and throwing the toys out of the cot as they beg for another 30 per cent to fund a project that the state should have completed in the first place, requiring zero federal infrastructure dollars.

Even now, the only reason Sunshine Coasters will see any action on the north coast rail duplication is that the federal government has done more than its fair share. What will happen north of Landsborough? Nothing, because yet again the minister cannot find the 30 per cent needed to make the full project happen. Thank God for Scott Morrison and the federal coalition government, because they care more about Queenslanders than the Premier and this incompetent Labor government do.