




Speech By
Andrew Powell

MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE

Record of Proceedings, 12 August 2020

MOTION

Liberal National Party, Commitments

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (5.10 pm): I rise to speak in support of the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition. Yes, Queensland, Australia and indeed the world are in the midst of a dreadful health pandemic and, yes, it has created economic challenges for every state and nation around the world, but in Queensland those economic challenges are magnified because of Labor's incompetence and five years of mismanagement. Before COVID, Queensland had the average worst unemployment rate in the nation, the highest number of bankruptcies and the lowest business confidence.

Now, more than ever, Queensland needs a leader. Queensland needs a government that has a vision for economic growth, a plan to stimulate the economy and a plan to drag Queensland out of recession and create a decade of secure jobs. In Deb Frecklington, the member for Nanango and Leader of the Opposition, and in the LNP the people of Queensland will have that leader and that government. Deb has a vision for Queensland to make us an economic powerhouse again—the best place to get a job, to get ahead and to raise a family.

I turn to some of the LNP's already announced plans. I will focus on those that particularly pertain to the portfolio of state development, manufacturing, infrastructure and planning. As the leader said, there will be no new or increased taxes. Why? Because that will boost business confidence and create jobs. We are not afraid of the 'D' word, dams. We will build them, starting with the visionary New Bradfield Scheme. We also will make sure that we have shovel-ready the Nullinga Dam and the Urannah Dam. We will raise Burdekin Falls Dam. We will make sure that Rookwood Weir gets built and that Emu Swamp Dam at Stanthorpe gets built. We also will fix up dams—dams like Paradise—instead of ripping them down in the middle of a drought. We will look to the future by setting up the Queensland Infrastructure Fund with royalties received by opening up the Galilee Basin. Again, we will not be afraid to get this state rolling and working again.

Like we always have to do, we will stop Labor's wasteful spending. They cannot help it; they do it every time. It is LNP governments that have to clean up their mess. We will also invest in infrastructure—infrastructure that will lead to economic growth. We will build a second M1 to get people on the Gold Coast home safer and sooner. We will fast-track shovel-ready projects across South-East Queensland through our \$1 billion congestion-busting program to stimulate the economy—like investing \$100 million to upgrade Cleveland-Redland Bay Road through Thornlands and into Redland Bay in the seat of Redlands.

We will deliver more park-and-ride facilities for Gold Coast commuters at Nerang in the electorate of Gaven. We will make \$25 million available for new on-ramps and off-ramps on the M1, supporting electorates like Theodore and Coomera. We will spend \$90 million to build an overpass at the intersection of Gympie Road and Beams Road at Carseldine. Anyone from the Sunshine Coast, like me, knows that is where you come down the highway and then grind to a halt. Under Deb Frecklington,

the LNP will sort that out. We have committed \$245 million for a new bridge over the Brisbane River on the Centenary Motorway and, most importantly, \$35 million on the Sunshine Coast to build the Bells Creek arterial. We will get people moving again. We will get them to work and home sooner and safer.

Yes, we are in a pandemic, but that will end. Queensland needs a leader who offers a vision, plans and projects to get Queensland out of recession. There is only one leader, Deb Frecklington, and only one party, the LNP, that can provide the economic leadership that Queensland needs.