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GOVERNMENT MUST INTERVENE ON #CROSSRIVERFAIL

The Queensland Government's Cross River Rail project risks failure before construction even starts due to chronic mismanagement, serious public safety issues and a botched industrial agreement, according to Queensland Plumbers Union secretary Gary O'Halloran.

"If the Palaszczuk government wants to avoid creating a \$5.4 billion white elephant they must disband the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority immediately, remove chief executive Graeme Newton, and start again," Mr. O'Halloran said.

"What we have at the moment is the biggest infrastructure project ever undertaken in Queensland that falls woefully short of meeting the government's own Best Practice Principles."

"A rushed and opaque tendering and approval process has resulted in a shoddy project agreement that is well below comparable industry standards."

"Adherence to local procurement guidelines is questionable, and the use of cut-price sub-contractors sees corners being cut on safety – especially with regards to asbestos removal and traffic management during the demolition phase – and workers being paid barely minimum wages."

"The government just sat back and allowed CPB – which has an appalling record on safety and industrial relations – to ram through a project agreement better suited to a banana republic than an allegedly modern state that wants to deliver optimal outcomes for taxpayers and workers."

"If the government wants to avoid this becoming a five year nightmare of cost blowouts, sub-standard work and safety breaches the time for dramatic intervention is now," Mr. O'Halloran said.

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The Queensland Plumbers and Pipe Trades Employees Union is the industrial Union representing licensed plumbers and related workers in the water, fire, sanitary and mechanical plumbing industries.

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