



Speech by

Miss FIONA SIMPSON

MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE

Hansard 11 September 2001

PUBLIC TRANSPORT, SUNSHINE COAST

Miss SIMPSON (Maroochydore—NPA) (Nanango—Ind) (7.01 p.m.): I wish to speak in regard to the public transport needs of the Sunshine Coast and the need for a serious coordination of regional development. Currently, we have seen the completion of the CAMCOSS study—a study initiated under the coalition government. I am pleased to see the study come forward. It is necessary for good planning on the Sunshine Coast. But we are still to see a real implementation plan and the funding allocated to truly meet the targets that must be met if we are to see people using public transport on the Sunshine Coast.

I am calling on this government to put some funding into implementation but, most importantly, there has to be some coordination of services. It is a crazy situation when you have an end of the bus contract zone and then nobody seems to be responsible for coordinating services outside those contract zones. There is a lack of coordination between Queensland Rail and Queensland Transport in getting a coordination of services between bus and rail. You would think that in this day and age that would hardly be rocket science. Still we see a situation where there is a poor coordination of services. I am calling on the government to look at a proper coordinating body, whether it be an authority or some decent system where at least we see some targets met in regard to public transport. This is one of the most pressing needs on the Sunshine Coast. If we want to see jobs created and business being able to expand, if we want to see people who do not have a lot of money get to a job or get to their place of study at the other end of the Sunshine Coast, they have to have access to public transport. There is also a need for an upgrade of the north coast railway line. I understand that in peak times the rail services to the Gold Coast run on the half hour. On the Sunshine Coast you would not even get a service on the hour.

If you look at the lack of regularity of services to the Sunshine Coast to the north of Brisbane, it really shows that this region is in desperate need of funding being allocated—not just planning studies—once the planning studies are done. I want to mention also, though, that planning studies can be strung out. I am disappointed that with respect to a study agreed to under the coalition government—and with the change of government I am pleased this minister took on that project—it will now be four years before we will see that planning project for the Pacific Paradise Road study completed. What does it take when we have communities divided by heavy transport and which are calling for other options such as possible bypass roads to be put in place? Yet it will be something like four years by the time that transport study will be completed. That is a disgrace. That is delaying putting in place the infrastructure that needs to be put into communities. Planning is necessary, but when it takes so long it browns off the local community. They have been consulted and they do not see their recommendations being put into action.

Time expired.
