



Speech by

Mark McArdle

MEMBER FOR CALOUNDRA

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CITY OF CALOUNDRA

Mr McARDLE (Caloundra—Lib) (9.24 pm): Yesterday and today the Minister for Health and the minister for water attacked me for, in essence, standing up for the rights of the people of Caloundra and ensuring that their needs are met on a daily basis. The simple reason we have to do this is that it is quite clear that the Beattie government cannot be trusted. It cannot be trusted to put words into action. It cannot be trusted to put the plans that it espouses to the people into action on the ground. The people of Queensland are, in fact, starting to learn this more and more every day. Since 1998 this government has neglected Caloundra on a daily basis. Unless people such as me continue to hound it to achieve what it has to achieve to make Caloundra a more livable place we are going to achieve nothing.

We only have to go into the recent past to understand this clearly. Look at the Caloundra Road debacle. At this point in time that road carries 25,000 vehicles per day. It is a central road into the city of Caloundra and it will not be upgraded from a two-lane road to a four-lane road until the end of 2009. That road is a central road into the city of Caloundra and to the Sunshine Coast and that has been completely ignored by this government.

The second theatre at Caloundra Hospital was not opened for a period of seven years after it was constructed. That theatre is still not fully operational. That is another case of neglect of Caloundra by the Beattie government. It was left up to us to bring forward the Cairncross rail corridor to a realistic time line. We had no help from the members for Kawana, Glass House and Noosa. They were not able to stand up and have their voices heard because they are cowered by their Labor machine and are not able to stand on their own two feet and fight the battle that they should fight for the Sunshine Coast. They cannot do it. We are going to do it. The member for Maroochydore and I are going to do it because no-one here is going to do it for us. The transport issue on the Sunshine Coast is an absolute debacle as a consequence of this Labor government's neglect for the basic necessities of the people. Those members opposite do nothing to assist.

Police numbers on the Sunshine Coast are another woeful example of this government's absolute abuse of the people who live in that area. There has not been one Labor Party member who has stood up for those people. Not one member from Kawana, Noosa or Glass House has stood up for those people. The only reason they have not—

An opposition member: They are lazy.

Mr McARDLE: Exactly right. They are lazy. They do not care.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lee): Order! The member will address his comments through the chair.

Mr McARDLE: The members of this government have no compassion for the people of Caloundra; they simply do not care what happens there. It is left to the coalition team to put together a plan to provide for those people. We know from past history that we cannot turn to this government for any form of support whatsoever. This Labor government does not deserve to hold seats on the Sunshine Coast under any circumstances.