



Speech by

Mark McArdle

MEMBER FOR CALOUNDRA

Hansard Wednesday, 1 March 2006

PUBLIC TRANSPORT SYSTEM

Mr McARDLE (Caloundra—Lib) (6.13 pm): I rise to support the motion. At the outset, I have to say that the member for Kawana's comments about \$1.1 billion being spent on the Sunshine Coast missed a tiny fact: the CAMCOS corridor is projected for 2025-26. There is no rail public transport across the Sunshine Coast. Do members know why? It is because we have had to suffer the Beattie government's neglect, rorts, stupidity and ignorance across the coast for the last eight years. It has taken a coalition to get together and say that we hear what the people of the Sunshine Coast are saying, and they want a rail system. We will pull it in 10 years. The minister did not state that. The reason is that he has done nothing about it.

Mr Lucas interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Minister for transport, if you want to make a further contribution, do it from your own seat.

Mr McARDLE: Our proposal comprises common sense, reality and an understanding of what the people of the Sunshine Coast want. They are three concepts that the Beattie government has no idea of what they mean or represent. Let us consider the Sunshine Coast. I do not understand why this Beattie government simply does not comprehend the need for a rail system across Caloundra, Maroochy and Noosa. It is a long, thin, narrow neck of land with a population of 270,000, and growing every single day. It is the third largest growth area in this country and it is being ignored year in and year out.

On the Sunshine Coast there are people, due to age or infirmity, who cannot drive motor vehicles but who do not have access to any form of rail transport system because that mob does not care.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Caloundra, I do not think 'mob' is a parliamentary word.

Mr Caltabiano: 'Rabble'. 'Rabble' is a much better word.

Mr McARDLE: That rabble does not care—a Beattie rabble. The youth on the Sunshine Coast cannot get to their jobs via rail public transport. Do members know why? It does not exist. Every day people come in to see me who want to get to Noosa from Caloundra but they cannot, because the buses do not run on time or the buses do not run at all, and there is no rail transport system. Those opposite are an absolute rabble. It shows an absolutely disgusting disrespect and disregard for the people of the Sunshine Coast.

We live in an area that is growing economically every day. An economic growth area needs a public transport system that caters for all the needs of all the people across the coast. The Sunshine Coast does not have a whiff of getting that under this Beattie government until 2025-26. The minister has not even indicated that the Beattie government will consider bringing that time period forward. Why? Because it does not care. In fact, on 1 February 2006 a community transport forum was held in Maroochydore that both I and the member for Maroochydore attended. That transport forum was to discuss how we get around the problem. Not one Labor member was at that forum.

Mr Quinn: No interest.

Mr McARDLE: No interest at all. An exceptional guest speaker came to the Sunshine Coast from the Gold Coast. There was not even an apology from any member of the Beattie Labor government. Again, that is typical of neglect.

The rail system needs to be integrated not only with the public but also with the bus service. Let us talk about SunBus. Let us talk about the ramshackle results of SunBus on the Sunshine Coast. People talk to me about it every day. A woman phoned on Monday and told me that two buses failed to appear.

Mr Lucas interjected.

Mr McARDLE: The minister has no plan whatsoever to bring any integrated transport system to the Sunshine Coast because he cannot think outside of the metropolitan area. He is an absolute disgrace.

Time expired.