



Speech by

Fiona Simpson

MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE

Hansard Wednesday, 8 October 2008

COASTCONNECT

Miss SIMPSON (Maroochydore—LNP) (11.38 am): Today I tabled a petition from about 3,000 signatories protesting the potential impact of the state government's proposed CoastConnect six-lane highway through the area of Alexandra Parade and along Aerodrome Road. The project as a whole will go from Caloundra to Maroochydore via this area, and my comments today are targeted to this particular area of severe impact.

Sunshine Coast residents want a better public transport system that enhances their lifestyle, not destroys their local businesses without compensation or creates a greater barrier between them and the beach. The current proposal needs to go back to the drawing board to look at ways of enhancing buses throughout the network of roads such as the Sunshine Motorway and pinch points along other roads but to take into account all impacts.

After the minister's extraordinary personal attack on me this morning for raising these concerns, it is clear that he does not intend to genuinely listen to the worries of those mum-and-dad business operators who have approached me and said that this proposal as it stands would send them broke. What I have heard from him today shows that he does not care. I urge the minister to put politics aside and to listen to these people's concerns.

When I asked the consultant to explain what the mode-share traffic projections and passenger projections were as part of this consultation, the consultant could not answer me—and I have witnesses to that. 'No,' the consultant said, 'That modelling has not been done yet. It will be done as part of the business case when it is submitted.' When I asked about the consideration of the impact on all of these retailers through losing their parking outside, the consultant said, 'No, those people have been lucky to have that parking for all of those years. They have no right to that parking.'

This sort of nonsense has to stop. If it is happening on this road, where there is no consideration of the impacts on people, then it is happening elsewhere. Good government is about good policy that understands the impacts of decision making and takes that into consideration. It is not part of the consultation process that this government has launched. I say to the minister that he should put his politics aside and listen to the people about the best way to enhance lifestyle and public transport.