



Speech by

**Michael Crandon**

**MEMBER FOR COOMERA**

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## **GOLD COAST RAILWAY LINE**

**Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (10.25 pm): 'Minister hits back on trains'. That was the headline that greeted people when they turned to page 14 of the *Gold Coast Sun* yesterday. Imagine my excitement when I saw that headline. I was convinced that I had missed something in the budget papers. I was convinced that the *Sun* had an exclusive that was going to reveal that the Gold Coast was getting more peak-hour rail services. But, no, I had not missed anything at all. The story revolved around the Minister for Transport telling the people of Coomera that it was 'too bad, so sad'. They were not going to get any more trains anytime soon.

I have been calling on the minister to open up her mind to the possibilities and to find a way to ease the pain for northern Gold Coast commuters—people living in the Coomera, Albert, Gaven and Broadwater electorates—who are forced to stand for an hour every day just to get to work. For many, it is the same story coming home every afternoon.

The minister talks about the past. She talks about 2005. The Gold Coast line was the 'Bombay Express' then and all the then transport minister was doing was playing catch-up for the lack of planning from the previous five years. We have moved on and it is time this minister caught up, too. This is 2010. The problem is that the minister does not have a solution until 2017 at the earliest. That is too far away. By then we will have another 30,000 or 40,000 people in the region and the 'Bombay Express' is not going to do the job.

The fact is that the minister has not been down to see the train for herself. She has even taken to hiding the quarterly reports that confirm that that area has the most overcrowded line on the network. The TransLink Tracker is overdue by months. The last one that was released is for October-December 2009. Where is the TransLink Tracker for January-March 2010? Where is the Quarter 1 2010 Queensland Rail Passenger Load Survey, which was due out weeks, if not months, ago? How long is the minister going to hide the reports? How long is the minister going to ignore this issue?

The minister and her predecessors lacked planning, and that has got us into this mess. She is spending hundreds of millions of dollars on 18,000 people. Over the past five years the Coomera region has grown by 25,000 people. And guess what? The next five years is going to see at least another 30,000. Hundreds of millions of dollars has been spent to service 18,000 people and zero has been spent to service the people of the northern Gold Coast.

The people in my area have a 4.34 am train that leaves the Varsity station. I say to the minister that it is a train that goes to the airport; it is not a train that goes to Central station. The minister knows that. If this minister were serious she would admit that that train is not a commuter train and that it was never intended to be. My area needs another two 'peak peak' services to accommodate the people of the northern Gold Coast for now and into the future. The people in my area need these services to tide them over until 2017 as an absolute minimum. There has to be a solution.