



Speech by

Michael Crandon

MEMBER FOR COOMERA

Hansard Tuesday, 3 August 2010

GOLD COAST RAIL LINE

Mr CRANDON (Coomera—LNP) (9.38 pm): I am truly concerned about outcomes we sometimes achieve from the questions on notice system that is employed in this parliament. It appears that there is sometimes a lack of effort in the research area and even in the reading of questions. A good example was brought to the attention of this House recently with the case of two ministers responding to separate questions on notice advising the member for Lockyer that the question on notice should be asked of the other. Neither minister wanted to take responsibility.

On 14 April this year I asked the Minister for Transport for information as to passenger numbers, both in the past and projected numbers into the future, for the Gold Coast rail line. In the response, tabled on 18 May, the minister advised me of the past passenger numbers and waxed lyrical about what the government has spent on the Gold Coast line over the past five years. I make this point because it is quite clear that this minister and this government think in the past. They are happy to talk about what happened and were happy to answer questions that were not even asked. I did not ask a question on expenditure; I asked a question about passenger numbers in the past and in the future, a simple question about projections. There was no answer. The question was a simple one. As I said, I asked for past numbers, which were given. The part of my question relating to the future that was not answered was: what are the projected commuter numbers expected on the line in one year's time, three years time, five years time and 10 years time expressed in numbers and percentage terms for each year? Like I said, there was no answer.

I felt that perhaps the minister had overlooked that part of the question. So in question on notice 954 on 20 May this year, I asked the question again. I did not confuse matters by again asking the question about the past. The question I asked was: with reference to passenger numbers on the Gold Coast rail line, what are the projected commuter numbers expected on the line in one year's time, three years time, five years time and 10 years time expressed in number and percentage terms for each year? The minister's answer was, 'I refer the member to previous question on notice 751, which was tabled in parliament on 18 May 2010.' The answer went on to say that the government is currently finalising a new integrated regional transport plan for South-East Queensland and that the plan includes forward projections.

A number of points come to mind. Firstly, obviously the researcher did not bring to the minister's attention that she had not answered the question in question No. 751. I asked the question; the minister did not answer it. I asked it again; the minister referred me back to the original question but she did not answer the question in the first place. It is little bit like the case involving the member for Lockyer.

A number of other issues come to mind. The minister could have made comments about the integrated transport plan in question on notice 751 and saved this House a little bit of time. But let us not forget the point I made—the whole purpose of why I am speaking on this topic, because that point should not be lost. I asked a question that was ignored, although I was given information that was not asked for.

(Time expired)