




Speech by

Fiona Simpson

MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE

Hansard Wednesday, 9 March 2011

BRIBIE ISLAND BRIDGE, REPAIRS

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (11.37 am): Gaffer tape and garden ties are holding together part of the Bribie Island Bridge. It is bizarre but true, and I table the evidence—photos of this completely unacceptable practice.

Tabled paper: Photographs of repairs on the Bribie Island Bridge [\[4048\]](#).

Any Labor member or minister who tries to defend this as being acceptable has a question mark over their own competence. Gaffer tape and garden ties: this is shoddy, yet this is typical of the Labor Party's maintenance programs for roads in this state. It is almost four months now since this bridge was damaged—well before the floods, well before the cyclones—yet the best the Bligh Labor government can do is to nip into the garden shed, take some gaffer tape, get some garden ties and bung it together and say that it is good enough. Well it is not good enough.

Mrs SULLIVAN: I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. I find the comments by the member for Maroochydore unacceptable. This was a set-up. The member for Maroochydore was caught red-handed with her hands on the railing in an attempt to shake it. She was caught red-handed interfering with state government property. I ask her to withdraw her statements.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hoolihan): Order! Members, I am listening to the point of order. Could you keep your comments to yourself.

Ms SIMPSON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I would seek your protection but the comments are so bizarre that they deserve condemnation.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Maroochydore, I have a point of order raised. It is not a point of order. There is no personal reflection. I call the member for Maroochydore.

Ms SIMPSON: This is typical of this government—in denial, that it is good enough to go to the garden shed and get a bit of gaffer tape and then say that that is a maintenance program!

Mrs SULLIVAN: I rise to a point of order.

Ms SIMPSON: If the member feels offended by her government's own maintenance program, that is who she should take the issue up with.

Mrs SULLIVAN: I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please resume your seat, member for Maroochydore.

Mrs SULLIVAN: The temporary railing is a safety measure. It was put up by Main Roads. It did not—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no point of order, member for Pumicestone. I call the member for Maroochydhore.

Ms SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. The member is in denial. She thinks gaffer tape and garden ties are acceptable. Well it is completely dangerous, and this has been going on since November.

Mrs SULLIVAN: I rise to a point of order.

Ms SIMPSON: She stands condemned by her own actions in defending her government's maintenance program.

Mrs SULLIVAN: I take offence at the member suggesting in any way, shape or form that this temporary railing is dangerous. That is unacceptable and I ask her to withdraw it.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no point of order, member for Pumicestone. I call the member for Maroochydhore.

Ms SIMPSON: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. We are going to stand up for the constituents of Pumicestone, because the member is not. I visited this site with the candidate for Pumicestone, Lisa France. It is quite clear that it is dangerous. It is unacceptable to the community and it is unacceptable to us. How can the minister justify gaffer tape and garden ties? Clearly, the local member thinks it is okay. We do not, and we will fight for a better go. But this is just symptomatic of the wider maintenance practices of this government. The RACQ has found that Queensland's National Highways are failing, with 89 per cent—

(Time expired)