



Speech by


## Fiona Simpson

MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE

Hansard Thursday, 25 August 2011

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### SUNSHINE COAST, PUBLIC TRANSPORT

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (3.12 pm): The Bligh government has given Queensland a dam without a pipeline and then a pipeline without a real dam and, in the latest silliness, a bus transport system without buses. It is completely grotesque to hear the transport minister and Premier in the parliament this week boast about their record on public transport and yet remain silent about a disgraceful failure to provide buses to the whole of the Sunshine Coast region throughout a long-running dispute for the best part of two weeks. We saw a situation where a region of 350,000 people for one week had no bus services and for another week had only partial services, and this has caused a great deal of distress. But where was the Premier and where was the minister? They were absent. They were silent, certainly in this place, and they let down some of the most vulnerable people who depend on public transport. I have heard stories of people who lost their jobs when they complained that bus services were not there or unreliable because of this long-running dispute. Others had their medical appointments cancelled.

Where was the minister who was responsible? Completely absent! We heard the minister and the Premier this week boasting about public transport, but they were silent about this long-running dispute, which has also caused a deal of difficulty for the bus drivers involved. Public transport is an essential service. The minister and this government are responsible. They cannot just step in front of the cameras when it suits them and then avoid their responsibility with regard to such a basic issue. I realise that most members in this place have cars and can drive themselves, but to have a whole region of 350,000 people without buses for the best part of two weeks—certainly completely no bus services for one week—is unacceptable. The pensioners and those who rely on these services have called on this government to act rather than wash its hands the way it has done.

*(Time expired)*