




Speech By
Michael Crandon

MEMBER FOR COOMERA

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MOTION: GOLD COAST CRUISE SHIP TERMINAL

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (6.22 pm): I rise to speak in support of the amendment moved by the Deputy Premier. For the benefit of the members opposite, I would like to take a moment to go through the amendment a little bit slower. Clearly, they have not been listening to the debate at all. It was four minutes before the previous speaker made any mention of her side of the debate. The amendment notes that the LNP government has listened to the Gold Coast community by ruling out development on The Spit and notes that the LNP government will only allow the proposed development on the man-made Wave Break Island to continue if the proponent can demonstrate it has community support for the development. What part of that do those members opposite not get?

The reality is that we have a proposal on the table, not brought by this government, but brought by developers who were encouraged to bring those developments forward by Tom Tate, the mayor of the Gold Coast, who had used the cruise ship terminal as a cornerstone of his election campaign in 2012. It is as simple as that. We have offered a process. We have offered the developers an opportunity to come along to show us what they have. But most importantly, it has to stack up in three different ways. It has to stack up economically, it has to stack up environmentally and it most certainly has to stack up socially. It is as simple as that. That is our position. So, therefore, we—

Mrs Miller interjected.

Mr CRANDON: We can close the debate now. I see that the member for Bundamba is now agreeing with our side of the argument. I can see—

Mrs Miller: No. You agree with us.

Mr CRANDON: The member agrees that Wave Break Island will not be developed.

Mrs Miller interjected.

Mr CRANDON: The member for Bundamba is quite clear in her acceptance of our side of the argument. We have, and we have had for a long time, roadblocks in the state seat of Coomera on the Gold Coast. One of those roadblocks happens to be the Broadwater. What did this government make a promise to do? It made the promise to bring in an independent authority to manage the dredging and to manage the whole of the Gold Coast waterways. We brought that authority in. What have we seen? I get constant advice from Transport and Main Roads advising me of the various dredging operations that are occurring right around the Gold Coast Broadwater.

What is the roadblock for the state seat of Coomera? It is the Coomera River. We have not been able to dredge the Coomera River. If it had not been neglected for the years that Labor was in government, we would not be going through what we are going through now in terms of dredging the Coomera River. But this government has a solution. We put our authority in place. We have now ascertained a dredge spoil facility in the Coomera area so that we can now move forward and dredge the Coomera River. What does that mean? It means economic development for the state seat of Coomera. It means economic development for the Gold Coast. What is it all around? It is all around the waterways. It is all around the industries that we are talking about.

Let me say that I support the concept of a cruise ship terminal. I am not an engineer. It is as simple as that. I will rely on the engineers to tell me whether it is viable, wherever it may need to be developed. However, it has to stack up economically, it has to stack up environmentally and it has to stack up socially. That is our position. I can assure members that the people of the Coomera electorate are in full support of the concept of a cruise ship terminal, provided it stacks up in all of those areas.

We have massive potential development in the Coomera electorate around the dredging of the Coomera River. I am talking about a \$450 million development, which is virtually doubling the size of the Coomera marine precinct. We have a further \$450 million in the Coomera town centre that is going to be enabled by the duplication of exit 54. Have members heard me talk about exit 54? The reality is that the cruise ship terminal is a possibility, but only a possibility if it stacks up in those three very important areas.

(Time expired)