




Speech By
Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Sunshine Coast, Roads Infrastructure

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (2.54 pm): I raise an issue with the House, a very important issue on the Sunshine Coast, and that is the crippled road networks we now have because of a lack of investment and foresight by the new Labor state government. We have a \$2 billion hospital opening next year, one year away, which the LNP brought forward by six months because we believe in investment on the Sunshine Coast, particularly for the health of the region and its people. Going into the election we had a plan to deliver a \$400 million road infrastructure network upgrade. That was the Mooloolah River interchange. It would have provided additional capacity off Kawana Way. It would have provided additional carriageway at the Mooloolah River crossing. It would have provided additional support in terms of road infrastructure to Mooloolaba from north of Nicklin Way. Those who travel on Kawana Way and Kawana Way link road from Caloundra Road and Nicklin Way would know that at peak times it is already crippling. The member for Caloundra will understand that coming into Caloundra and then turning onto Kawana Way link road, our roads can hardly handle the traffic congestion as it is.

The LNP had a plan to come up with a \$400 million strategy to deliver the Mooloolah River interchange. What was the first thing the new Minister for Transport and Main Roads did when he became the minister? He cancelled the infrastructure project. The problem is that we have got a hospital opening next year—a \$2 billion hospital opening in 2016—without appropriate road infrastructure to support the hospital.

The other day I was travelling to the office and I went over the little bridge on Kawana Way and there was an accident on the bridge. The emergency services had to close one lane of the bridge and it was mayhem there for 45 to 55 minutes as cars travelled that road. Guess what? It was right out the front of the hospital. Can honourable members imagine a situation when the hospital opens in one year's time and emergency service vehicles like ambulances are going to have to use that road to get to the hospital? It is not going to happen, particularly as demonstrated by the accident on that road the other day.

It is shameful that the first thing this Minister for Main Roads did was cancel that project; \$400 million was stripped from the Sunshine Coast. It would have provided the opportunities and the road infrastructure needed—

Mr BAILEY: I rise to a point of order. The member for Kawana is misleading the House by saying that we have cancelled the program. We cancelled no program. There was no commitment whatsoever.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! There is no point of order. I call the member for Kawana.

Mr BLEIJIE: We have a road project that has been cancelled. I do not have a copy of it, but the *Sunshine Coast Daily* quotes the minister saying that it is off the agenda. The department of main roads

had a plan for it. I think if you go onto the main roads website the plan is still there for the Mooloolah River interchange, and he denies it ever existed. There were plans there by his own department.

I do not want anyone to die because they cannot get to the hospital. Unless this new Labor government starts taking roads and the Sunshine Coast seriously, someone will die when this hospital opens next year. We can avoid it by building the roads now.