




Speech By
Michael Crandon

MEMBER FOR COOMERA

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ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (4.53 pm): I rise to make a speech on the address-in-reply to the Governor's speech at the opening of the 55th Parliament. Before I start I would like to thank the people of the Coomera electorate for their support and their demonstration of confidence in me by electing me to a third term as their representative in this place. It is worth noting the number of electors who now call the Coomera electorate home versus the number back in 2009, when I was first elected. Back in 2009 there were fewer than 29,000 electors and there were 39,115 electors on the day of the last election.

Mr Hart: You shook hands with every one of them, didn't you?

Mr CRANDON: I did not quite manage to doorknock every house, but I have to say that we certainly spent a lot of time out in the community making sure that the people of the Coomera electorate were aware of me, what I was about and certainly what we were fighting for in the state seat of Coomera.

I also thank my family. My three sons provided invaluable assistance during the campaign, leading up to the election and, of course, on election day. I also thank my darling wife, the love of my life, who puts up with me. She does a good job of putting up with me.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr CRANDON: I put up with her, too, thank you. She does a marvellous job of just being there as the rock, the support for me, sometimes at home and sometimes as a volunteer at the office. She is certainly a part of the team.

Talking about the team, I dare not attempt what others in this place have done, and that is to go through a list of thank-yous and individually name people because there are so many. There were many hundreds of people who were supporters in one way or another. During the election campaign I had a team of people. We had two vehicles with trailers containing signage. Those trailers with signage were out in the electorate virtually eight hours a day, every day for the whole of the campaign. It was a massive effort in itself to try to pull that team together. They were there and they were supporters. As honourable members can imagine, sometimes it was pretty boring for them to just drive around in a vehicle, but they were there and they were committed to the task, as were all of those other people who were part of the campaign.

The election of 31 January 2015 was a sad day for the people of Queensland. The people of Queensland ended up with an accidental government. I would suggest that the government itself would admit that it is an accidental government. It had no plan to govern. The people of the Coomera electorate—indeed, the people of the Gold Coast—said they could not believe it. They could not believe what they were seeing. They could not believe that a government was coming into office that had no plan, no way forward. It certainly was not the desire of the people of the Gold Coast to see the result unfold.

The LNP acknowledges it made some mistakes, but the people of my electorate understood that we were on the right track; we were getting Queensland back on track. The people of Coomera recognise that the LNP team was by far, and is, the most experienced and competent team that this state has seen for many a long day. The people of Coomera recognise that the LNP performance in government has improved the outlook for our state and certainly for the Gold Coast. Its performance in government improved the outlook for the people of the northern Gold Coast—in fact, the whole of the Gold Coast.

What did that performance mean? First of all and most importantly—and it was mentioned here today, and I acknowledge the Deputy Premier for commenting about it today—it meant finding the money for the exit 54 upgrade and duplication. Six years ago in my maiden speech, one of the major topics that I brought up and discussed was the need to duplicate exit 54. It took six years. I got absolutely nowhere in the 2009 to 2012 period, the 53rd Parliament, when Labor was in office. They gave no indication whatsoever that they were going to fund exit 54, try as I did.

I would suggest to honourable members that the duplication is being built because we were in office, because the LNP government looked for the money and found the way forward to duplicate exit 54. The money was there before the election. The money had been found through negotiation with the federal government, and I acknowledge the federal government and colleagues from the federal government, Bert van Manen and Stuart Robert, who went to Canberra on our behalf and managed to find \$10 million to assist in the building of that duplication. We got the developers on board, who have chipped in \$16 million or \$17 million.

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr CRANDON: I take the interjection from the minister, because he has had to stand in this place on a number of occasions and apologise for things that he has said. Just to clarify: you are not triplicating something, Minister, if you are going from two lanes to five lanes.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I will have you direct your comments through the chair.

Mr CRANDON: Through you, Mr Deputy Speaker: we have a three-lane extension/duplication coming online which was planned while the LNP was in government. It was not even a pipedream during the previous Labor government's term. It was planned and the funding was found when the LNP came into government, so get your facts right, Minister. Do not embarrass yourself again by sitting there and waffling on about something that you really do not know anything about.

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr CRANDON: Through you, Mr Deputy Speaker: you will have to correct the record again, Minister. The bottom line is that the announcement was made and we all knew that the money was there. You are a Johnny-come-lately who came along and gave it the tick that you had to give it because it represented a billion dollar spend in that part of the Gold Coast and you could not get out of it. You would have got out of it, I would suggest, if you could have, but you could not. The money was there and it was a billion dollar spend. I have acknowledged the Deputy Premier for her comments today, so we will move on.

It also meant development of infrastructure like schools and shopping centres. It meant finding the money for many programs in my electorate, from Eagleby in the north to Helensvale in the south. I have a great pictorial here that demonstrates all of the different things that we were able to achieve as an LNP government for the north of the Gold Coast over the almost three years that we were in power. Starting at the north of the Gold Coast, many hundreds of thousands of desperately needed dollars were ploughed into Eagleby State School and Eagleby South State School, each of which received many hundreds of thousands of dollars. Also in the Eagleby area: the Eagleby Giants football club picked up \$20,000; the Eagleby Community Association picked up \$27,500; Twin Rivers Community Care, a wonderful organisation in the north of the electorate, picked up \$21,000; and approximately 300,000 desperately needed dollars went to the Woongoolba State School for long overdue repairs. The LNP government brought those to the people of Woongoolba and the Woongoolba State School, which is one of the oldest schools in the state.

Another bane of our existence at times was exit 38 to Quinns Hill Road, a stretch of the Stapylton-Jacobs Well Road. When the Labor government was previously in power we got nowhere when it came to providing funds for that project, yet we now see that \$7.2 million was spent on widening Stapylton-Jacobs Well Road to provide an additional traffic lane to the approach of the exit 38 roundabout and, for safety purposes, to install traffic lights on Quinns Hill Road to ensure the safety of traffic coming through that area because of trucks turning out of the quarry at the top of Quinns Hill Road.

One of the highlights for Ormeau Woods State High School was the Ignition Athletics Get Playing funding of \$65,500, which basically means that we have Little As in the middle of a fast-growing area. Ormeau State School received \$600,000 for various things including repairs and maintenance, which was neglected by the former Labor government.

One of the really big highlights was two new schools, one of which is the Pimpama State Secondary College. It now has something in the order of 770 students and is growing at a much faster rate than anticipated, so I hope that this government will ensure the funding is there for the next stage of Pimpama State Secondary College. Pimpama State Primary College opened at the beginning of this year with an estimated enrolment of 120 to 150, but at the close of day 8 there were 170 students so there is quite a bit of growth in that area. The Pimpama area is where many of those 10,000 new electors and their families have decided to live. It is a lovely area, and so we as a government recognised that it was essential to ensure that new schools were constructed. King's Christian College has also decided to open its doors at the beginning of—

Ms Bates: A great new school.

Mr CRANDON: It is a great new school. I take that interjection from the member for Mudgeeraba. King's Christian College has opened their new school in Pimpama as well, and we will see that expand and grow over time. Coomera State School received hundreds of thousands of dollars, and many dollars also went to Coomera Rivers State School, one of our newer schools which is nearing capacity as far as numbers are concerned. It is a fantastic school situated on Finnegan Way, but there are some challenges with car parks and traffic going through there. We are a fast-growing area and there are many heavy trucks that have to traverse that area to get to the new estates, so there are some challenges there.

There have been hundreds of thousands of dollars ploughed into the sporting clubs of the state seat of Coomera by the minister, and once again the need is there. We have a touch footy club that has about 3,500—

Mr Hart interjected.

Mr CRANDON: I take that interjection from the member for Burleigh, because that is the concern. I will come to that shortly. I have touched on what it meant for the development of new schools, shopping centres and so forth and the billion dollars of spend that is about to occur with the Coomera Town Centre and so forth. Of course, all of that means jobs, jobs, jobs—not just jobs during construction but permanent jobs at the other end as well for the people of the northern Gold Coast. It means they will not have to travel great distances to find work and there will be quite a significant number of new jobs in that area.

Speaking of development, it meant that more development applications were submitted. The numbers are astounding. Towards the end of 2014 I asked the Gold Coast City Council to give me some numbers covering a 10-year period. I will not go through all of the detail, but I will tell you that in the Coomera electorate for the first three full years that I was in office under a Labor government, 2009-2011, a total of 762 development applications were approved by the Gold Coast City Council. In the almost three years from 2012 to 24 November 2014, less than three years, there was a total of 1,367 applications. That is an 80 per cent increase in development applications. Year on year from 2011 to 2012 we saw an 18.5 per cent increase; from 2012 to 2013 and then 2013 to 2014 we saw an increase of around 45 per cent each year. That is confidence in the economic outlook, and may I say that that was confidence in the LNP government.

I regard development applications as a lead indicator of confidence, as are things like small business supplying the building industry. For example, a particular house frame manufacturer in my electorate has never been so busy—so busy, in fact, that it has actually outgrown the location it has been at for 20 years. It could not keep up with demand—it was as simple as that—and it had to open another plant. Commercial nurseries are another great lead indicator because they are out there providing plants and what have you for the development industry. They have been flat out for the past three years, since the LNP government came to office. This evidence points to more jobs for the development and housing industries, more jobs in infrastructure development and more jobs all round—and then, of course, after the developments have been completed, more jobs in those new business places that are being built.

Shortly after I came to office, under the Bligh Labor government, the marine industry suffered a massive downturn. One manufacturer alone was forced to lay off around 1,200 people—a devastating outcome for the local residents and for local jobs. In fact, I am told that the unemployment rate in my electorate at that time was around 13 per cent. Today it is under the national average at around 5.7 per cent. Over the past three years we have seen a reinvigoration of the marine industry—one that has seen massive jobs growth. If members want to see the results firsthand—here is a little ad for

the Coomera electorate—they should come to the Coomera electorate for an amazing experience. The Sanctuary Cove International Boat Show is on this weekend, from 21 to 24 May, at Sanctuary Cove village. That is this weekend, so members should make sure they are there and do not miss out. In its 27th year, the by-line of the boat show is 'experience oceans of awesome'. What a great by-line. On the same weekend, at the Gold Coast International Marine Expo at the Gold Coast marine precinct on Waterway Drive, Coomera, dubbed 'the working boat show', there will be around three kilometres of display around the largest marine precinct in Australia.

What does all of this activity mean? It is proof that business on the Gold Coast and in the Coomera electorate had confidence in the LNP government. The Gold Coast electors agreed, with all nine seats being held by LNP members and the 10th one won by an LNP candidate. We welcome the member for Gaven to the House. I acknowledge that he delivered his maiden speech just a few hours ago.

Simply put, Labor does not have a clear plan for Queensland and it certainly does not have the support of Queenslanders. It received 37½ per cent of the vote. Therefore, Labor has no clear mandate. Its only claim to form government is based on an agreement with the member for Nicklin, but there is no clear proof that it is in the best interests of Queenslanders. This government has been cobbled together. The people of the Gold Coast and the Coomera electorate saw that Labor sought power without policies or a dialogue with Queenslanders and certainly without a dialogue with the Gold Coast community.

I already sense that in my electorate there is fear that a confused and incapable government will spread dysfunction and cripple the economy. I hope that the fear and confusion that I sense does not translate into another downturn in the northern corridor of the Gold Coast.