




Speech By
Fiona Simpson

MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE

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ADJOURNMENT

Sunshine Coast

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (7.02 pm): Tonight I am issuing an invitation to main roads minister Bailey and transport minister Hinchliffe to visit the Sunshine Coast to view the roads and rail of the Sunshine Coast, together with all the state MPs who represent the area, so that we can show them the issues that we have raised in the parliament, in the media and in our correspondence. Ministers Bailey and Hinchliffe might be on the other side of the parliament, but I would welcome their interest and action in building the infrastructure that the Sunshine Coast region and its 340,000 people need to sustain their economy, their jobs and their sanity.

On 15 September, during the last parliamentary sitting week, we held a Sunshine Coast day, with all my other LNP colleagues who represent areas on the Sunshine coast speaking with one voice and advocating for their region. Unfortunately, owing to unexpected family illness, I could not be here, but I am happy to add my contribution today, as we all have many times in this parliament and in our communities and will continue to do so until we see the projects across the finish line.

I am passionate about putting the Sunshine Coast first. Together with my colleagues in Team Sunshine Coast, we are advocating for better roads, better rail and better public transport to build on the success of the biggest hospital project in the Southern Hemisphere that, thanks to our efforts, is underway in our region. That hospital is a real regional game changer and the Sunshine Coast LNP team is responsible for making it happen.

Our No. 1 regional priority now is the north coast rail line duplication, then the upgrade to the Bruce Highway, the Mooloolah River interchange—known as the MRI—and other road and public transport networks. The rail line duplication project, to which we committed funding as part of our election commitments, is stuck in yet another business case with this Labor government. The Mooloolah River interchange at the nexus of Nicklin Way and the Sunshine Motorway is necessary to save lives. It is extremely dangerous, it has a high accident rate, but it is a key access point to the network of roads that lead to the new hospital. That project must get underway. The former LNP government had resumed the corridor as well as redesigned the concept plan to allow those resummptions to occur. It had also committed to funding the project during the election campaign but, under Labor, the project has stalled.

Together with my Sunshine Coast LNP colleagues, Kawana MP Jarrod Bleijie, Noosa MP Glen Elmes, Glass House MP Andrew Powell, Buderim MP Steve Dickson and Caloundra MP Mark McArdle, and our federal colleagues Andrew Wallace, Lou O'Brien and Ted O'Brien, we have a plan for the Sunshine Coast to make it even better than it is already. As I have mentioned, the hospital is a game changer. Some cynics will sniff and dismiss it, but it is a ripper. It has seen jobs delivered into our region, but we want to see more. I welcome the \$1.13 billion upgrade to the Bruce Highway between Caloundra Road and the Sunshine Motorway, which is funded mainly by our federal colleagues. That upgrade will address a number of safety issues, but we want to see the duplication of the rest of the Bruce Highway.