




Speech By
Fiona Simpson

MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Maroochydore Electorate

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (2.36 pm): Seven hundred thousand Queenslanders who live north of Brisbane between the Sunshine Coast and the Moreton Bay region need Labor main roads minister Mark Bailey to stop stalling plans for the Bruce Highway upgrade which we so desperately need for jobs and safety. Very few days go by when there is not a serious accident on the Bruce Highway causing serious delays. The federal government has committed funds for planning to upgrade and duplicate more of the lanes north of Brisbane, but Minister Bailey is sitting on his hands and will not deliver that plan until 2018. This is unacceptable. We should not have to wait nearly three years simply for the plan to be done, and the ball is in the minister's court. The funding is there. They need to ensure that this work is done and they need to finalise plans for six lanes on this vital section of highway.

The Sunshine Coast is one of the fastest growing regions in Queensland, yet this Palaszczuk Labor government is asleep at the wheel and still not listening to the Sunshine Coast and Moreton Bay region. If you put both of these regions together, that is about 700,000 people who are stuck with this goat track and this minister is not going to deliver the plan for the upgrade until 2018. That is not good enough. I hear the excuses and yapping going on from Labor members who do not want to see real infrastructure. They are better off not paying their own bills than ensuring taxpayers' money is spent in a timely way. Despite widespread support from the community for desperately needed infrastructure, Labor continues to bury its head in the sand and delay or forget about our much needed rail and road upgrades. Federal roads and infrastructure minister Darren Chester visited the Sunshine Coast recently to see firsthand what the Sunshine Coast LNP team have been fighting for. The North Coast Rail—

Mr Power interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! Member for Logan, I think there has been enough interjecting from you today. I call the member for Maroochydore and I ask the member for Logan to cease interjecting.

Ms SIMPSON: In the lead-up to the last state election the LNP government pledged half a billion dollars to duplicate the line from Beerburrum to Landsborough. This would have provided an additional 150 weekly services for Sunshine Coast commuters and unlock the bottleneck for freight services, getting more cars and B-doubles off the Bruce Highway. Labor said that they could do infrastructure without raising taxes, cutting services or leasing assets. Well, they have whacked up the taxes, they have told complete whoppers about what they were going to do, but still there is nothing with regard to a plan for the rail line and nothing with regard to a plan for the Bruce Highway.

With regard to the Bruce Highway, I thank our federal colleagues Ted O'Brien, the member for Fairfax, and Andrew Wallace, the member for Fisher, for nearly a billion dollars for the project between the Caloundra Road—

(Time expired)