




Speech By
Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Record of Proceedings, 24 August 2017

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Roads, Nicklin Way

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (2.55 pm): I want to talk about a serious issue affecting the livelihoods of a group of about 30 small businesses along Nicklin Way, from Main Drive to Waterview Street, Warana. Recently, I was briefed by the Department of Transport and Main Roads about a plan to use leftover funding from the \$22 million allocated for Sunshine Coast University Hospital access improvements to upgrade a small section of Nicklin Way. Honourable members might remember that it was the LNP that committed to delivering the \$440 million Mooloolah River interchange to ease congestion and support delivery of the hospital. However, the Labor government and the member for Yeerongpilly scrapped that project and, instead, provided an upgrade of four roundabouts on Kawana Way. This Labor government, without consultation with the local residents or business community, went ahead and developed—

Mr BAILEY: I rise to a point of order. The member for Kawana is misleading the House. There was never a budget allocation for the Mooloolah River interchange by the Labor government. That is the truth.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no point of order. You know the rules, member for Yeerongpilly. You can write to the Speaker.

Mr BLEIJIE: Without consultation they went ahead and developed a plan to remove all on-street car parking along the stretch of Nicklin Way, as I mentioned earlier, from Main Drive to Waterview Street. This is despite the fact that almost every small business operating along that stretch of Nicklin Way relies on these car-parking bays so their customers can access their shops. If these parking bays are removed, customers cannot access these shops. If their customers cannot access their shops, then they cannot make any money which means they will go broke and they will have to let their staff go.

The next part of this plan is just so bizarre. They are adding another set of traffic lights on Nicklin Way and directing traffic along Production Avenue through to Kawana Way. One major issue I see is that Production Avenue and the surrounding streets are part of an industrial estate which has constant heavy and commercial type machinery operating. The main roads minister is advocating that to improve access to the university hospital we should be directing traffic off Nicklin Way and sending them through an industrial estate, past concrete trucks, past forklifts, past reversing B-doubles to access the hospital. In what world would this be considered a sensible, safe and efficient plan? Not one small business owner in the affected area supports it. I thank the Kawana Chamber of Commerce for getting on board with the petition to make sure this does not go ahead. I have met with all the business owners and none of them support it.

On 26 June 2017 I wrote to the then minister, Mark Bailey, advising him of the very serious concerns we hold for the project. In my letter I requested an urgent meeting with the minister to facilitate a small group of local business owners to convey their very serious concerns. That was almost two months ago now and the minister has refused to even respond. I table a copy of that letter sent to the member for Yeerongpilly.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 26 June 2017, from the member for Kawana, Mr Jarrod Bleijie MP to the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply, Hon. Mark Bailey, regarding proposed Nicklin Way upgrade [\[1457\]](#).

I hope he did not delete my email. He should not have because it was not sent to his Yahoo account! I do hope the new Minister for Main Roads is more willing to listen to the concerns of the Kawana community and work with those who are affected to ensure we get the balance right. I call on acting Minister Miles to make the time available to allow small business owners, whose livelihoods stand to be destroyed, to have their concerns heard before proceeding any further with this crazy plan.