




Speech By  
**John-Paul Langbroek**  
**MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE**

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Record of Proceedings, 8 August 2017

**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL:  
EDUCATION, TOURISM, INNOVATION AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE**

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (8.54 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker, I thank you for your chairmanship of the committee. With less than 240 days until the Commonwealth Games, you can well and truly say that we are on the home stretch until athletes and visitors descend on our city. You can feel the excitement and optimism on the Gold Coast, which is why I have always been a strong supporter of the Commonwealth Games. We want the 2018 Commonwealth Games to be the best ever. The LNP is proud to have worked hard to fund the games after the former Bligh government won the bid without a plan for how Queensland was going to fund it. Most of all, as residents we want to ensure that the Commonwealth Games is going to be the gift that keeps giving to our city. We want more jobs, infrastructure that we will be able to use for generations to come and a reputation for being a great family holiday destination.

What we do not want is a post-Commonwealth Games jobs hangover. We do not want to be paying for infrastructure overspend with our hard-earned tax dollars for years to come and we certainly do not want to have a reputation for being a city where it is hard to get anywhere, whether you are using our trains, buses, roads or the M1. It is really disappointing that a frank report on the progress of the transport plan did not come from either of the ministers for the Commonwealth Games or transport. It came from the member for Maryborough. On Triple M Fraser Coast Radio, he said—

I'm on the Commonwealth Games committee and inside the Labor Party and we're pulling our hair out at the moment.

...

We are going to have a transport debacle.

Whilst we might be headed for a public transport debacle, Queenslanders cannot even be guaranteed that they will be able to get to the Gold Coast by car. Last week's truck explosion at Loganlea, which shut down the M1 southbound, is a prime example of what we need to prepare for so that we can avoid shutting down our key arterial road during the games. The Commonwealth Games Federation has expressed concerns about the transport planning for the games, with reassurance from Goldoc that it is going to be okay, but we can see that there are significant issues.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Order! One moment please, member for Surfers Paradise. Members in the House, there is far too much noise. Member for Maryborough, do not have conversations across the chamber.

**Mr LANGBROEK:** On Channel 7, the RACQ said—

I think everyone involved in the Commonwealth Games is very, very well aware of the sensitivities of the M1.

It seems that everyone is aware, except for the Brisbane Labor government. It was disappointing to hear that last Friday the minister said that she did not know anything about that particular incident on the M1. She said, 'I don't know about that, sorry, because I've been in meetings all day'. Whilst Labor

managed to venture outside Brisbane for a week to visit the Gold Coast and probably travelled along the M1 outside peak hour to get there, they failed to see what locals have to put up with day in, day out. If this is a potential consequence of the transport plan, I can see why the member for Maryborough is so worried.

On the day of the Commonwealth Games estimates hearing, the minister made a significant announcement about a public register for Commonwealth Games tickets. She advised that the policy was not developed in light of issues between Goldoc and the Gold Coast mayor, but has been a work in progress and a consequence of work done over a number of months. However, on 9 June, just over a month before the announcement, I received an answer to a question on notice about their ticketing policies. In part, that answer states—

The Queensland government is currently considering its ticketing requirements for the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games. I table that document.

*Tabled paper:* Answer to question on notice No. 548 asked on 10 May 2017 [[1250](#)].

I am concerned that the minister has misled us, perhaps by omission, given that she told the hearing that the government had been working on this public register for a period of some months, yet only the day before the budget was announced I received that letter stating that the government was still working on its ticketing strategy. I think Gold Coasters and Queenslanders deserve up-front answers about the games. It was unprecedented to hear the chairman of a statutory authority engaging in political debate—that is Peter Beattie with Tom Tate about the ticketing requirements of the Gold Coast City Council. I asked the minister whether there was any other statutory authority for which she was responsible where she would consider it appropriate to have the chair engaging in political commentary. She would not accept it from the Queensland College of Teachers, the Curriculum and Assessment Authority or TAFE Queensland, so why on earth is it appropriate for the former premier and chair of Goldoc to be doing that? What I think it shows is that he is the real Commonwealth Games minister.

My constituents, my neighbours, friends and family want and need a great Commonwealth Games. In order to make this happen, we need a minister who is going to be up-front with us and not take a step back when things get tough.