




Speech By
Andrew Powell

MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Sunshine Coast Rail Duplication

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (2.55 pm): It is a great day for the residents of the Sunshine Coast. It is one of those days that I wish I was back on the coast sharing in the celebrations, but by being here in parliament I have an opportunity to tell members and all of Queensland why it is such a great day. The north coast rail duplication is a project that is very near and dear to me. It is a project that I needed when I did the two-hour-each-way-each-day commute from my home on the Sunshine Coast to Brisbane as a public servant; a project that as a resident of a railway town on the Sunshine Coast I know is desperately needed; a project that as a local member I know will bring certainty, improvements and better transport around the Sunshine Coast and into Brisbane and beyond; a project that as a former transport shadow minister, and now as the infrastructure shadow minister, I know is desperately needed; and a project that is about to become a reality.

Sadly, this project was canned by those opposite in 2009. Despite promising the money, despite having the money in the budget and despite having work crews do preliminary works between Beerburrum and Landsborough, it went missing. My Sunshine Coast colleagues and I have been fighting ever since to get this project back on the books. We were joined in this fight by our federal colleagues, Andrew Wallace, the member for Fisher, Ted O'Brien, the member for Fairfax and 'Team Queensland'. I thank them for what they have been able to achieve.

This is a project that the LNP put back on track. In our term in government we got all the approvals and all the works done so the project was shovel ready. We gave a commitment in the 2015 and 2017 election campaigns to make this project a reality. Now it can be, because our federal colleagues, the Turnbull government, have committed \$390 million. We will see that in next week's federal budget. It is a wonderful contribution that will lead to 150 extra weekly services on the north coast rail line. It will improve freight. What that means for everyone who does not use rail is fewer cars and trucks on the Bruce Highway. What a fantastic outcome for everyone who commutes or travels to and from the Sunshine Coast for work or enjoyment.

This duplication is a necessary precursor for fast rail. Many of my constituents on the coast have heard me talk about that, and I am excited that it is still potentially on track. We need this duplication, particularly through to Landsborough, to make fast rail through to Nambour and Maroochydore a reality. There are no more excuses. The federal government has put \$390 million on the table. Our residents do not want to hear quibbles over whether that is 50 per cent, 80 per cent, 20 per cent, 30 per cent or 60 per cent. We need a commitment from the Annastacia Palaszczuk Labor government in June's budget to match that funding so this project finally becomes a reality.