




Speech By
Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

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MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Governing from the Regions, Sunshine Coast

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (2.25 pm): Roll out the red carpet! On 11 March the honourable Premier advised her few Facebook followers, ‘We are governing from the Sunshine Coast. This is an opportunity for cabinet to reach out to community and listen. We want to hear about the issues and what the region needs to keep up with the growth now and in the future and how we can help make that happen.’ The best thing the Palaszczuk Labor government can do to help the Sunshine Coast is stay away from the Sunshine Coast—other than write a cheque.

How is it that governing from the region for an entire week ended up being for two days? Half the cabinet could not last until Tuesday night. They ran out of things to do—they fled—which is a complete insult to the Sunshine Coast community. We wanted to talk to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads about the Mooloolah River interchange. Where was the money for the Mooloolah River interchange? We wanted to talk about proper funding for the rail duplication. Where was the rail duplication money? The government is happy to fund Brisbane’s rail system 100 per cent but will not give 20 per cent to the Sunshine Coast. In the electorate of the Treasurer the government is happy to give 100 per cent funding for the rail system but not a cent over 20 per cent for the Sunshine Coast rail system. Where is the Caloundra Road money? The minister fixed it! He put traffic lights on the roundabout. That was a smart idea! I suspect they have stopped being used because they were not working effectively. Every time I have been on the roundabout at Nicklin Way, Caloundra, the traffic lights have not been operating. I think they worked out that was money not well spent.

Where was the health minister when Mark Forbes set up the first residential facility for eating disorders in Australia? He was written to by constituents Mark and Gayle Forbes, whose own daughter suffered eating disorders. They set up the first eating disorder residential facility in the country on the Sunshine Coast and the Minister for Health refused to go and look at the facility. What a shame.

We do not have any rail duplication funding announcement. We have the Cross River Rail funding because we know this government is Brisbane-centric. To top it all off, for the ministers who did last three days, we had that pearler of a press conference with the federal members Ted O’Brien and Andrew Wallace and yappity yap over there, the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. It says something about a person when they refuse to even shake the hand of a colleague—which the Premier did. She had such a hissy fit. She walked off out of the press conference. Before she walked off she looked at Ted O’Brien, the federal member for Fairfax, refused to shake his hand, folded her arms—the arrogance of the Premier—and walked off. But back-up arrived. Who stepped in? The Minister for Transport and Main Roads stepped in. That was an uncomfortable situation for the minister. It says something when that guy has to defend the Premier.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The member for Kawana needs to refer to members by their correct title.

Mr BLEIJIE: The one the CCC referred to as a fool. That is who I am referring to. That is how the Crime and Corruption Commission referred to this minister.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, use correct titles, please.

Mr BLEIJIE: Thank you. The Minister for Transport and Main Roads had to jump in because the Premier had a hissy-fit and walked out of the press conference. Do you know what it showed? It showed what we see about this Premier all the time in this parliament—the arrogance of this Premier. Because the Premier rarely does press conferences, the public do not really see that other side of the Premier, but it was on full show.

How was it that the Premier rocked up at one of two press conferences during the whole week at a school in the morning to be peppered with questions about why schools are not air-conditioned? She said, 'Oh, this government is giving \$23 million in air-conditioning.' No, Premier. That is the Cooler Schools program, which does not apply to schools south of Gladstone. The Premier is misleading the Sunshine Coast community and there is no regard for the Sunshine Coast community.

Ms Jones interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: The minister for tourism is squawking now. She could not even stay the five days. Tourism represents one of the Sunshine Coast's biggest investments and opportunities but the tourism minister could not even stay the five days. The minister cut and run to attend Brisbane events. In fact, I think I saw her tweet that she was at a fundraiser for the Labor Party federal candidate. That is the tourism minister's priority. The only party that cares about the Sunshine Coast is the Liberal National Party. Its great local members will always defend the Sunshine Coast community. Next time Palaszczuk wants to visit the coast, bring the cheque book!