



Speech By  
**Meaghan Scanlon**


**MEMBER FOR GAVEN**

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Record of Proceedings, 26 November 2019

**MOTION**

**Federal Government, Infrastructure Funding**

 **Ms SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (11.55 am): The Palaszczuk government continues to deliver for the Gold Coast. We have been doing the heavy lifting over the last four years. We have delivered nearly a billion dollars in local infrastructure upgrades with the light rail stage 2, the heavy rail duplication between Helensvale and Coomera stations and the six large road upgrades. Anyone driving south on the M1 can see works between Mudgeeraba and Varsity Lakes making great progress.

In comparison to those opposite, who did not spend a single new dollar on the M1 when last in power, we know that the Gold Coast is growing, which means we need to keep up with the infrastructure to focus on the demand on the Gold Coast. Last Wednesday was a good day for the Gold Coast. The federal government finally listened to our calls for a fairer funding deal for infrastructure. We showed that despite our political differences we can work together for the best interests of Queenslanders. For the Gold Coast this meant the Morrison government agreed to match the Palaszczuk government's \$96.3 billion for M1 exit 49 and the shovel-ready exit 41. During the last sitting week in this parliament I called on the federal government to increase its contribution from a measly 25 per cent to 50 per cent and I am pleased that that persistence has paid off.

The difference between what we were originally offered for these two exits and what we have now secured is just over \$46 million. The amount of \$46 million is how much the member for Coomera wanted to rip off Queenslanders because he was too weak to stand up to his federal mates. I was also pleased to see the federal government pull forward funding for the M1 upgrades between Varsity Lakes and Tugun. I joined the Premier and Deputy Premier in 2018—

**Ms Bates** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Pause the clock. Member for Mudgeeraba, your interjections are not being taken.

**Ms SCANLON:**—when we announced that we would bring forward state government funding so that upgrades could kick off immediately after the current works between Mudgeeraba and Varsity Lakes were complete. At the time more than 80 per cent of the funding committed by the federal coalition would not flow until after 2022-23, so I welcome the federal announcement to bring forward \$45 million.

Last but not least, I want to talk about the Gold Coast Light Rail to Burleigh. As I have said in this House before, the original offer of 16 per cent from the Morrison government was pathetic. After persistence from this side of the House and stakeholders in our community, the federal government has agreed to increase its contribution by \$157 million. While the Palaszczuk government is still the majority contributor to this project, with \$351 million on the table, this additional money from the federal government is welcomed and allows us to get the project under construction as soon as possible, creating over 700 jobs for Gold Coasters. The Palaszczuk government is investing in the future and will

continue to work with the community to deliver important transport infrastructure for the Gold Coast because that is what good Labor governments do—unlike those opposite, who did not contribute a single dollar to the M1 when they were last in power.

**Ms Bates** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Mudgeeraba, you have had several goes. You are now warned under the standing orders.

**Ms SCANLON:** I commend the motion to the House.