



Speech By  
**Jarrold Bleijie**


**MEMBER FOR KAWANA**

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Record of Proceedings, 23 March 2021

## ADJOURNMENT

### Sunshine Coast Mass Transit Project

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (7.14 pm): I want to raise an issue of importance for the Sunshine Coast, particularly for the Kawana community at the moment—and that is the mass transit plan being produced by the Sunshine Coast Regional Council and the furphy of a consultation that they are about to embark on. The Sunshine Coast Regional Council have advised that they are putting nine options to the people, despite the fact that the mayor and local council voted against community consultation. Believe it or not, the mayor voted against any community consultation on this mass transit.

They have said to the community that there will be nine options available including light rail down the centre of Nicklin Way from Mooloolaba to Caloundra. That will impact businesses, small businesses and many, many residents. What the consultation fails to address is density. The council have deliberately left out consultation with the community on density. If light rail comes to the Sunshine Coast, so will come density—high rises and medium density. That is what is coming to the Sunshine Coast.

For the council to pay external consultants that they have hired to consult the community about the mass transit options but without including density is all planned to secure an outcome of light rail. If they ask: 'Do you support light rail on the Sunshine Coast?' people would say, 'Oh, yeah—sounds good.' But if they ask: 'Do you support light rail on the Sunshine Coast with 80,000 additional people living between Mooloolaba and Caloundra, with the congestion and no other transportation options?' then people might say, 'We don't think so.'

People support heavy passenger rail on the CAMCOS corridor to get people north and south. There is huge concern about the mass transit options. I congratulate the Sunshine Coast Mass Transit Action Group and the Beach Matters Group for the protests and the community forums they are doing. They are actually doing real consultation, which is what the Sunshine Coast Regional Council should be doing. The Sunshine Coast Regional Council have a predetermined outcome and it is all about light rail down Nicklin Way. Make no mistake: we will be making sure that the community know what that means for the Sunshine Coast. We love the Gold Coast, but if we loved it so much we would all move to the Gold Coast. We love our Sunshine Coast and we do not want it to change.

**Mr Langbroek** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** We are not moving to the Gold Coast, member for Surfers Paradise. You can stay on the Gold Coast. We love the Sunshine Coast. That is why we live on the Sunshine Coast and we want to preserve the natural amenity we have. We do not want to be the Gold Coast on the Sunshine Coast.

I also thank the Sunshine Coast India Association for their inaugural Holi Festival of Colours. I had a great time. I was covered in a tonne of coloured powder on the weekend. It completely wrecked the white shirt and the suit, but we had a great time. What a fantastic, positive festival it was despite the rain.

Also, the Minister for Housing should be distressed by the fact that she has not addressed the huge housing concerns we have on the Sunshine Coast. We have a housing crisis where people are living in their cars. It has to change and it has to change now.

*(Time expired)*