



Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

Record of Proceedings, 31 August 2021


APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation Bill

Transport and Resources Committee, Report

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (6.33 pm): That was entertaining! The committee hearing was fascinating. From what I hear, the member for Chatsworth was basically opposed to the member for Callide saying anything or asking any questions. That does not surprise me, because it is well known that the member for Chatsworth and the member for Callide do not get on. What surprised me was that the member for Callide acceded to it and was compliant. What we saw was a committee member—he is paid \$24,000 extra to be on the committee—who did not say a word to me as the transport minister and did not ask a single question.

We saw the member for Bonney run out of questions in his session. At least that was better than having no questions whatsoever. The member for Callide might be the 'Squealer from Biloela' on Facebook, but in Brisbane he is silent and compliant.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Minister, I remind you of the correct use of titles. I ask you to withdraw.

Mr BAILEY: I withdraw. The member for Callide is silent and compliant in Brisbane but talks big on Facebook. That is his story. I look forward to another Marcel Marceau routine after he loses Flynn, because I do not think the people of Flynn are going to elect somebody who is silent in the halls of power. They are going to elect somebody who actually gets things done.

Let me rebut some of the rather silly contributions from the member for Chatsworth. We remember that the member for Chatsworth was the assistant minister for public transport in the Newman government, which ordered noncompliant trains made overseas, cut drivers by 48 and stopped driver training. It was an absolute botch-up—and they still have him in transport and main roads. How do you figure that?

In terms of Cross River Rail, we have seen the reporting of Cross River Rail consistent over three budgets. If you listened to his speech you would have thought there was some great revelation this year, but the fact is that it cost \$5.4 billion with \$1.5 billion in contributions from the private sector, totalling \$6.9 billion. It has been in three budgets—2019, 2020 and 2021. I do not know what the member for Chatsworth was doing in the previous budgets, because he did not pick up on it whatsoever. It has not changed. The independent Audit Office has said that it has no issue with this project whatsoever. I think the independent Audit Office has a lot more credibility than the member for Chatsworth or those opposite.

It has been announced and known for a long time that the construction will cease in 2024 and it will open in 2025 after an extensive testing regime. This has been established for a long time. Those opposite cut this project when they were in power, because they hate this project, and they promised to cut it again in 2017. How did that go?

The Coomera Connector was blocked by the LNP when they were in power, as was well reported in the *Gold Coast Bulletin* when the member was an assistant minister. It is this government that has gazetted all three sessions of it. There is \$1.5 billion lined up in joint funding and we are getting on with the job. If you want to get roads and rail done, you go with Labor; if you want cuts or if you want nothing, go with the LNP.

We are spending 50 per cent more on infrastructure now than when we were first elected. I am glad to hear the member for Chatsworth has been up at the Barron River Bridge. I hope he drove his BMW convertible up there with his cravat flapping in the breeze. I hope he had a good look up there.

There is half a billion dollars worth of rail upgrade coming with the Beerburrum to Nambour rail upgrade. We are looking for some federal approvals. If the member for Chatsworth had any sincerity at all, he would be lobbying the federal government to get the approvals done. This was reported at estimates, but they never stand up for Queensland. They were going to sell off the Gladstone Ports Corporation. Strong Choices was absolutely ridiculous. We have the sixth record infrastructure budget in six years under this government.

Mr Boothman interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Theodore.

Mr BAILEY: We know that those opposite only cut when they get in. They cut, they sack and they sell. Nothing has changed.

Mr Boothman interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Minister, resume your seat, please. Member for Theodore, you are on a warning.

Mr BAILEY: That is all they do. Whatever they say, we know that they cut projects and they sack workers. That is in their DNA. We know that they are struggling over there. Look at the by-election result. It was one of the worst by-election results for an opposition in 150 years in Queensland. They are going nowhere under the member for Broadwater, and aren't they frustrated!