




Speech By
Hon. Meaghan Scanlon

MEMBER FOR GAVEN

Record of Proceedings, 12 May 2021

MOTION

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs) (6.09 pm): It is always wonderful to follow the member for Everton, particularly to talk about housing. Of course the member for Everton was the minister for housing under the Newman government. When it comes to the Gold Coast particularly, I was interested to have a look at the figures because there were in fact no new public housing homes that started construction not only in 2012-13 but in 2013-14. It is interesting that they come into this House and lecture our government on the need for social housing given their track record.

Instead of lecturing the federal government, which just handed down a budget that delivers no new funding for increased social public housing, they come into this chamber and lecture us while we are delivering record investment—in fact, \$1.6 billion for our Housing Construction Jobs Program. On the Gold Coast we have commenced 308 social housing properties—many are in LNP electorates—and we have more on the way. This is the largest investment in social housing since World War II.

On the Gold Coast we are also delivering a Gold Coast Youth Foyer, which will provide up to 40 units for vulnerable young people aged between 16 and 25. We have had some unlikely supporters. I note that the member for Southport recently visited the Gold Coast Youth Foyer, funded and delivered by the Palaszczuk government. I table a copy of a post he put up recently saying, 'Excited to see the Gold Coast Youth Foyer approaching its completion in the next couple of months ... #HousingFirst'. It is wonderful to see LNP members supporting Labor government achievements.

Tabled paper: Bundle of extracts from the Facebook page of the member for Southport, Mr Rob Molhoek MP, in relation to youth week, TAFE and young people [628](#).

He has also been quite supportive of a number of other infrastructure investments in TAFE facilities. We know that those opposite sacked a number of TAFE teachers, so it was surprising to see the member for Southport at TAFE facilities given their track record. I have another post here from the member for Southport at the Southport facility, where we delivered a \$10 million upgrade, saying, '... newly refurbished 64 x bed allied health training at TAFE Queensland,' with a clapping emoji.

I also have another post from the member for Southport at the Ashmore Trade Training Centre, saying, 'So pleased to be at the opening of the Trade training Centre at TAFE Queensland today ... Exciting that there is more investment coming in Allied Health at TAFE in the Southport CBD and also a new \$5.7 million Plumbing Tower due for completion at Ashmore in 2022.' It is interesting that those opposite talk about the need for infrastructure when they are claiming credit for our government's achievements to date.

I was also interested to see the motion talking about infrastructure. Under the Newman government we saw no new money for the M1 upgrades. It was under this government that we were able to deliver not only upgrades to the Gateway merge but also upgrades from Mudgeeraba to Varsity Lakes, which we have delivered. Now we are working on those next upgrades further down on the

southern Gold Coast and at Eight Mile Plains to Daisy Hill. We are also delivering exit upgrades. We have funded the second M1—a project that those opposite took out of the SEQ regional plan and stopped it from progressing.

We are also investing significantly in our Transport and Roads Investment Program—\$26.9 billion, which is creating over 23,000 jobs. That represents nearly 150 per cent of the last QTRIP that was delivered by those opposite. We are seeing increased investment from this government in comparison to the Newman government.

If those opposite were truly concerned about investment here in Queensland, they would be lobbying their federal counterparts for increased funding in infrastructure and transport. We have seen this morning, as the Treasurer said, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia get approximately \$3 billion from the federal government. We have received only \$1.6 billion. We are the fastest growing state. The Gold Coast is growing and growing. There are a lot of LNP MPs on the Gold Coast. They are very quiet when it comes to lobbying their federal mates. If they are really that concerned, they should be talking to their federal counterparts—Stuart Robert, Karen Andrews, Bert van Manen and Angie Bell—for increased funding.

When it comes to public transport on the Gold Coast particularly, again the light rail is being delivered by Labor, whether it is stage 1, 2—

Mr Minnikin: Thanks, ScoMo.

Ms SCANLON: The majority was funded by the state Labor government. We are delivering stage 3. It was the member for Burleigh who said, 'Not interested in the heavy rail down to the airport.' We also have three new train stations that we are delivering that would not have happened under those opposite because they did not support Cross River Rail. We are only able to deliver these pieces of infrastructure because it is a Labor government that has the foresight to invest in the growth of our city.