




Speech By
Andrew Powell

MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE

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MOTION

Sunshine Coast, Rail Infrastructure

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (5.39 pm): Oh, my goodness! To the constituents of Nicklin who are watching this debate tonight I say: that was your member—going on about monorail when he should be standing up for the needs of his constituents and the people of the Sunshine Coast. My message to the member for Nicklin is: maybe spend less time liking my Facebook page posts—in fact, maybe spend less time on social media, full stop—and more time standing up for the people of Nicklin and the people of the Sunshine Coast.

Mr SKELTON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I think everyone is on Facebook. I take offence at that remark.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): The member has taken personal offence. I ask you to withdraw.

Mr POWELL: I will, if he withdraws the likes on my Facebook page.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Resume your seat. I will take some advice.

Mr POWELL: I withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

Mr POWELL: What we saw in the members for Nicklin and Caloundra is the Labor Party playbook in the state of Queensland. Let me run through this. First, the Palaszczuk Labor government do nothing but review. All we heard from the members for Nicklin and Caloundra was about all the reviews they are doing. They do nothing but review. Then they spend all their time in this House blaming everyone else and everything else for their pathetic, poor performance. They then stick out their hand, particularly to Canberra, all of the time for absolutely everything, even things that are the sole responsibility of the state. We hear it all the time: 'We want our fair share. We want our fair share.'

Let's add another element to the Labor Party playbook. When they are given more than their fair share, they knock it back. Why? By knocking it back, they can go back to the start. They are in some sort of continuous negative feedback loop whereby by knocking it back they can go back to doing nothing other than reviewing—and on and on we go. We saw that in the contribution from the member for Nicklin. Scott Morrison, Andrew Wallace and Ted O'Brien have called them out. Tonight, we the LNP Sunshine Coast team are calling out the Premier, the Treasurer, the transport minister and the members for Caloundra and Nicklin, who would rather do nothing but review instead of delivering for the people of the Sunshine Coast.

I tell the member for Caloundra that his constituents want more rail and less jail. That is what they want. As other members have said tonight, there was a day when state Labor governments believed in rail and believed in rail to the Sunshine Coast. As the member for Ninderry pointed out, then transport minister Paul Lucas kicked off the project in 2005. As the member for Kawana pointed out, it was the Premier herself, when she was transport minister, who said that it had to happen. It was

happening. They had actually got duplication as far as Beerburrum and contracts were signed to take that duplication through to Landsborough. Coming up to the election of 2009, their member for Glass House chose to run away and contest another seat—another play from Labor's playbook when it gets too tough: you go somewhere else, like Maiwar to Murrumba or Greenslopes to Woodridge. Lo and behold, the LNP win the seat of Glass House and the project absolutely evaporates.

It has taken Scott Morrison, Andrew Wallace and Ted O'Brien to put money back on the table, for a state project that once was to be fully funded by the state Labor government, to ensure any duplication happens through the electorate of Glass House. Yes, it is happening. It is getting to Landsborough. That is important, because once that is done we need to continue it on to Nambour. We need to take this line off from Beerwah through Caloundra to Kawana and to Maroochydore so that the people of the Sunshine Coast can move around.

There was a time when state Labor governments were serious about delivering infrastructure across Queensland, including on the Sunshine Coast. Back then, local members actually stood up for their communities. I say to the members for Caloundra and Nicklin: it is time to get on board and deliver heavy rail from Beerwah to Maroochydore. The federal government has put the money on the table. For once, accept it. For once, get off your backsides and actually do something and deliver heavy rail for the Sunshine Coast.