



Speech By  
**Brent Mickelberg**


**MEMBER FOR BUDERIM**

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Record of Proceedings, 26 October 2022

**MOTION**

**Rockhampton Ring Road**

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (5.34 pm): The Rockhampton region is not a priority for this Palaszczuk Labor government. Mr Deputy Speaker, you would expect me, as an opposition MP, to say that, but the residents of Rockhampton and the Capricorn Coast might be surprised to hear that the member for Keppel agrees with that sentiment. The member for Keppel agrees that the Rockhampton region is not a priority for any government—not a priority for the Albanese Labor federal government, not a priority for the Palaszczuk Labor state government. The member for Keppel agrees that Labor simply does not care about voters in Rockhampton or Keppel. The member for Keppel may not like the fact that I have raised this, but I table the member for Keppel's own Facebook comments as evidence to support the assertion I have just made.

*Tabled paper:* Extract, dated 26 October 2022, from the Facebook page of the member for Keppel, Ms Brittany Lauga MP, regarding the Rockhampton Ring Road [1756](#).

The member for Keppel says that she is 'shocked and disappointed' by the decision not to build the Rockhampton Ring Road.

**Mr Minnikin:** They're always disappointed!

**Mr MICKELBERG:** They are always disappointed; I take that interjection. She is shocked and disappointed, but she cites the fact that costs have increased 70 per cent over the last 12 to 18 months, and that is their excuse why Labor is not honouring their commitment. That is the excuse why Labor has abandoned their promise. Despite this, the member for Keppel acknowledges that, by delaying construction of this critical project, building it in the future will only cost more. The member for Keppel acknowledges this in her own words. Despite the project being shovel-ready and two tenderers being short-listed, Labor has chosen to break a promise to the people of Rockhampton and Central Queensland and to not build the Rockhampton Ring Road—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Members will stop with the hand gestures.

**Mr MICKELBERG:**—a project that the member for Keppel said was needed 'to keep people employed as the economy recovers'. What advocacy have we seen from the member for Keppel to ensure the Rockhampton Ring Road actually gets built?

**Mr Minnikin:** Not much!

**Mr MICKELBERG:** The answer—I will take the interjection from the member for Chatsworth—is not much. A bit of talk, the odd Facebook post, but no results. For Keppel residents hanging out for action on Great Keppel Island—nothing! On delivering improved services at Yeppoon Hospital—nothing! On actually fixing and starting work on the Rockhampton-Yeppoon Road—nothing! Tackling the youth crime epidemic affecting her own electorate—nothing! It is a familiar refrain. There is lip-service, but no action. Who is it that pays for the failures of the Labor members for Keppel and

Rockhampton to deliver for their communities? Time and time again it is the people of Rockhampton and the Capricorn Coast who miss out because the members for Keppel and Rockhampton are either unwilling or unable to fight for their communities.

I have personally met with Rockhampton businesses that justifiably saw the Rockhampton Ring Road project as an opportunity to deliver a lasting legacy of better jobs and a sustainable industry that would remain long after the sugar hit of that project funding ends—local organisations like Apprentices and Trainees Queensland, based in the member for Rockhampton's electorate, which developed a pilot program to increase the capacity of Rockhampton precast concrete manufacturers and to better equip them to benefit from major projects like the Rockhampton Ring Road. It is the kind of work that a government genuinely committed to regional Queensland would be doing themselves. Given they are not, the very least these Labor members should be doing is fighting for the local jobs and local industries that the Rockhampton Ring Road would deliver.

Where has the member for Keppel been in fighting for her constituents, who are going to pay \$250 more in rates if the suburbs of Glenlee, Glendale and Rockyview are removed from Livingstone Shire Council just to appease Labor mates in Rockhampton? If the people of Yeppoon, Emu Park and the rest of the Keppel electorate need any more proof that the Labor member for Keppel puts her interests and the interests of her Labor bosses ahead of theirs, then her silence on the Livingstone shire boundary change should be evidence enough. Mr Deputy Speaker, 95 per cent of Livingstone shire residents objected to that proposal and 45 per cent of residents responded—

**Ms LAUGA:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order with respect to relevance, I think there was a ruling previously about road transport infrastructure and its relevance to this debate.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! The point of order will be heard in silence. The member is referring to the part of the original motion that relates to advocating.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** The member for Keppel has gone missing in action. We heard the politics and the blame game, but it has fallen to the mayor, Andy Ireland, and the councillors from Livingstone shire to stand alongside the LNP and fight for her community. They have had to stand alongside the LNP and fight for her community because she will not do so. Rather than stand in solidarity with her community, the member for Keppel stands alongside the Labor members and the Labor ministers who are Brisbane based and Brisbane focused and do not care about regional Queensland.

*(Time expired)*