




Speech By
Daniel Purdie

MEMBER FOR NINDERRY

Record of Proceedings, 30 March 2022

MOTION

Sunshine Coast, Rail Infrastructure

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (5.28 pm): I quote—

The Sunshine Coast needs a rail service that will keep pace with population growth and provide a swift, efficient link to Brisbane.

...

Rail services must keep pace with that population growth.

...

We need to adopt the best solution possible to provide the service improvements needed for the Sunshine Coast now, and for generations to come.

...

... project to boost northern rail services and provide the vital first link in the CAMCOS high speed service to the Sunshine Coast was launched today by Transport and Main Roads Minister, Paul Lucas.

In 2015! Going to the member for Caloundra's contribution about turning the first sod, Mr Lucas goes on to say—

The project will be constructed in two stages, starting from today.

Let's fast-forward a few decades to November last year, when Mr Bailey said, 'The Maroochyore passenger line is absolutely viable.' He went on to say, 'We're committed to the CAMCOS concept and have continued to preserve the corridor for a future rail link to Maroochyore.' Fast forward to this morning when he was referring to the CAMCOS project as 'SCAMCOS'.

Mr BAILEY: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member is referring to me by my personal name rather than my parliamentary title.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order! When I am taking a point of order, I expect to hear that point of order in silence. Member, I ask you to refer to members by their correct parliamentary titles.

Mr PURDIE: This morning the minister had the hide to refer to the CAMCOS project as 'SCAMCOS'. Over the past two decades the only people who have been scammed are the people of the Sunshine Coast and that is by this government.

The people of the Sunshine Coast know better. When the federal government has put \$1.6 billion on the table and it comes time to make a commitment, this government is running for the door. It reminds me of the favourite song of the member Everton, Meatloaf's *Paradise by the Dashboard Light*. This government has been promising the people of the Sunshine Coast a commitment. They promised to love the Sunshine Coast, but when it comes time to make a commitment they are praying for the end of time. For 20 years they have been making promises and lying to the people of the Sunshine Coast. That was laid bare today when the minister referred to the CAMCOS project as 'SCAMCOS'.

As we heard from the member for Kawana, even when the Premier was the transport minister it was in their future plans. One of the excuses used today and over the past couple of days since the \$1.6 billion has been on the table is that there is no business case. It was only in December 2020, after a \$5 million funding allocation from the federal government, that the North Coast Connect project business case was delivered. That business case talks about the North Coast Connect proposal—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, you will not use that document as a prop. You will table it or read from it.

Mr PURDIE: I am happy to table it. It states—

The North Coast Connect proposal aims to reduce rail journey times, Brisbane and the Sunshine Coast by around 25 minutes ... a new rail corridor to connect coastal population centres including Maroochydore, Kawana and Caloundra.

Our review found that the project aligns with government policies to support regional connectivity, reduce urban congestion, and improve sustainability by providing an attractive alternative to private vehicle trips.

Tabled paper: Extract from Infrastructure Australia, titled 'Project business case evaluation summary: North Coast Connect' [452](#).

Today the minister says that there is no business case. Once again it was the federal government that provided the money for that business case. It is not that old. This is a project that apparently had the sod turned in 2005. Now they are running for the exits.

The minister went further. In his contribution tonight he talked about the Beenleigh to Kuraby line. Why aren't we hearing pushback on that? I understand the same methodology to make that funding announcement by the federal government was used to make this \$1.6 billion commitment to the Sunshine Coast. Why is the Sunshine Coast line a scam yet there is no pushback at all with the Beenleigh to Kuraby line? The people of the Sunshine Coast can see through this. They have been lied to for two decades and they deserve better.

That takes me to the contribution of the member for Buderim who mentioned his maiden speech. He is not the only member from this side of the House who spoke about this project in their maiden speech. The member for Maroochydore did, the member for Kawana spoke about it, the member for Glass House spoke about it and I spoke about it. Do members know who else spoke about it? The former member for Nicklin, Marty Hunt! He spoke about it in his maiden speech and he spoke about it often in this place.

Do members know who did not mention it in their maiden speech and have never mentioned it? The current member for Nicklin and the current member for Caloundra! In their maiden speeches they spent their time lauding their union masters. They made no mention of the most transformative infrastructure project the Sunshine Coast has ever seen. Every one of the Sunshine Coast members on this side of the House and former members, such as the former member for Nicklin, spoke with passion and fought tirelessly for the Sunshine Coast rail project. Today I call on the member for Nicklin and the member for Caloundra to get on board and start fighting for this transformative project. The only way we are going to get it is to bring back Marty Hunt.

(Time expired)