




Speech By
Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

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APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL (NO. 2)

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 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (12.31 pm): I rise to speak on the appropriation bills and I will utilise the opportunity while the Minister for Transport and Main Roads is in the chamber to talk about the great need for passenger heavy rail on the Sunshine Coast from Beerwah to Caloundra, to the beautiful part of Kawana and through to Maroochydore.

Mr Bailey: Why didn't you build it?

Mr BLEIJIE: I will get to that in a minute.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Member for Miller.

Mr BLEIJIE: Over the years successful Labor governments had promised the CAMCOS corridor, and I think it was Paul Lucas who said that the CAMCOS rail corridor would be delivered by 2009. Of course, we have not got the rail corridor on the Sunshine Coast. With a population increase—

Mr Bailey: Why didn't you build it? You were in power. You were attorney-general.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. Member for Miller, I have already warned you once. You are warned under the standing orders.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection. The minister asks: what are we doing in Kawana? We built a \$2 billion hospital for the people of the Sunshine Coast. We brought it forward by six months and we saved the taxpayers \$200 million. We have a beautiful hospital. In the short period of time we were in government, 2½ years, we also promised we would build the Mooloolah River interchange. If it had not been for the federal government committing half of the funding, the Mooloolah River interchange, the MRI—which is not even a federal road and does not connect to a federal road—would not be happening. It is a state road that connects to Kawana Way and then the motorway. It has nothing to do with the federal government, but they have provided half the funding. I say thanks to Andrew Wallace, the federal member, and Ted O'Brien, the federal member for Fairfax, because if it had not been for the federal government—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Miller, I ask you to put your mask back on and you are under a warning. I just remind you of that.

Mr BLEIJIE: If it had not been for Andrew Wallace, the member for Fisher, and Ted O'Brien, the member for Fairfax, the Mooloolah River interchange would not even be at the planning stage. The state government either does not have the funds or cannot be bothered to build it. It is only happening now thanks to the federal government. I thank the two federal members for that.

As I say to the minister, we need heavy passenger rail infrastructure. If the 2032 Olympics is going to give the Labor government the kick up the backside to make sure we have that rail infrastructure, so be it. I will take that any day of the week so we can finally get heavy passenger rail. I

say to the minister while he is in the chamber that what we do not want is this stupid light rail plan that the Sunshine Coast Council have been dreaming and fantasising about. We do not want the light rail down Nicklin Way. It will have huge impacts on business.

I also take the opportunity while the minister is in the chamber to address the issue of Nicklin Way. The Department of Transport and Main Roads have recently put out a plan to upgrade the Currimundi to Wurtulla section of that road. The impact on small businesses is going to be so detrimental to those businesses that will lose their on-street car parking. We battled this years ago with Erang Street. We won that fight. Now despite the fact they have had a terrible two years with COVID and they are trying to get back to normal, make a dollar and employ people in my local community, small businesses in that area have now been hit with a letter from the Department of Transport and Main Roads saying that the on-street car parks are going to go under this project.

I say to the minister—I plead with the minister—on behalf of the small business community in Currimundi right up to Wurtulla: do not proceed with this upgrade if the businesses are going to lose their on-street car parking. There are better ways to do things that can save these businesses their car parks. I guarantee to the minister and the government that, if businesses along that stretch of Nicklin Way lose their on-street car parking, those businesses will likely not survive. I will do everything I can as the local member for Kawana to protect those businesses because if they do not survive people will lose their jobs.

I return to the appropriation bills we are debating today, particularly with respect to additional funding for the department of youth justice. I suspect that a lot of this funding has gone to the Caloundra youth jail, which was planned and funded and put in the budget. The community was consulted and it was all happening until Christmas, when it was not happening. The member for Caloundra all of a sudden said, 'The community does not want it. We do not want the youth jail in Caloundra anymore.' I can imagine the conversation that the member for Caloundra had with the minister at that stage after the minister had stood in this place and defended the Palaszczuk Labor government's plan for the youth jail in Caloundra. All of a sudden she had it pulled out from under her because they want to save a marginal seat in Caloundra. That is what this is about.

The youth jail was going to be built to apparently protect people of the Sunshine Coast and make it safer for those people of the Sunshine Coast. Now they are saying—get this—now the government line—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members!

Mr BLEIJIE: Before Christmas the official government line was that the Caloundra youth jail will make people safer—

Ms LAUGA: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I would ask that the member come back to the long title of the bills and concentrate on the appropriation bills. I ask that he be relevant.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no point of order. Resume your seat. This has been a wideranging debate and I specifically heard the member for Kawana talk about the appropriation bill in relation to this.

Mr BLEIJIE: It is section 3.2.2.1 of the committee report for the member for Keppel's reference. It is the department of youth justice if she needs the reference.

Before Christmas the official government line was the youth jail in Caloundra would protect the citizens of Caloundra and the Sunshine Coast and then after Christmas the Caloundra and Sunshine Coast communities would be better protected because they are not proceeding with the youth jail. It is clear that it is a political fix for the member for Caloundra because he is in a marginal seat. I can guarantee this: the people of the Sunshine Coast did not buy it; they will not buy it. They never supported the youth jail. The member for Caloundra may have had a last-minute road to Damascus moment, but the people of Caloundra have already made up their minds about the member for Caloundra. I can assure the House of that.

I turn now to section 3.2.2.5 of the report, which talks about additional funding for the borders. Some of those border policies were a terrible reflection of an uncaring and inhumane government. I raised the issue of young Lenny and of Grant from my electorate. People were on the verge of committing suicide because they could not get back into their home state. I will never let members of the Labor government forget that they were the ones who were causing so much mental health and anxiety for Queenslanders stuck over the border. I will never let them forget that.

The committee report also says at section 3.2.2.6 under Queensland Police Service there was \$10 million additional expenditure to ensure the health directives were abided with. We have spent \$10 million for our police men and women to go around and check people have their masks on. That is

what was spent—\$10 million. I say to the government that I would rather the \$10 million be spent on additional police men and women in the electorate of Kawana because we have a huge crime issue. We have people whose homes are being broken into and their cars being stolen.

Government members interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: They all interject now. They do not understand or realise the real issue of crime that exists across South-East Queensland and in my electorate at the moment. Every day I am getting reports of hooning. People are so fed up. I am calling on the government, particularly in relation to hooning, to invest in CCTV cameras and their ongoing maintenance and to locate them in hooning spots right around Kawana. Not only will that deter people from committing hooning activities but also when they do it we will be able to catch them and prosecute them so they can pay the full price under the law.

I call on the government to give the Kawana electorate more police and more resources. Let us target these hoons through the provision of CCTV cameras. I have written to the police minister to ensure we can better protect the citizens of the Sunshine Coast, particularly in Kawana. I thank the people who have raised these issues of hooning and crime which are happening in the Kawana electorate. I note that some government ministers were laughing and interjecting but crime is a real issue on the Sunshine Coast. I am not going to let the government off the hook for that.

I refer to the report on Appropriation Bill (No. 2). Section 3.2.2.2 relates to the Department of Justice and Attorney-General and the payouts for the flood victims. I would like to know how much the government spent on legal fees for Jackie Trad in current Supreme Court matters and CCC matters. This appropriation talks about funding for legal assistance. I want to know how much taxpayers' money the Labor government spent to protect Jackie Trad. If it is the case—and the Premier did not deny it this morning—that the Labor government have spent taxpayers' money for Trad to attempt to block a report that should be in the public interest then that is a disgrace. The Premier owes it to the people of Queensland to say whether Jackie Trad did get legal assistance and whether it was paid for by the taxpayers. I heard that Jackie Trad is 'lawyered up' and sending threatening documents to journalists in Queensland warning them not to talk about this matter. That is a disgrace.

I will not be bullied by the Attorney-General who this morning came in here asking why I raised these issues. I am not going to be bullied by the Attorney-General for raising important matters when someone has run off to a court to try to hide documents that should be in the public domain. I am not going to be bullied and intimidated by a Labor Attorney-General who says that I should not have raised these matters. If I had the chance to do what I did yesterday again, I would. The only way we can get transparency in this matter is to let the sunlight in. I say to the Attorney-General: stop bullying people and stop bullying whistleblowers who want to come into this place and protect the people of Queensland.