



Speech By
Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Record of Proceedings, 30 March 2022

MOTION

Sunshine Coast, Rail Infrastructure

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (5.07 pm): I move—

That this House notes:

1. that the federal government has committed \$1.6 billion to the No. 1 Sunshine Coast infrastructure priority, bringing heavy passenger rail from Brisbane to the Sunshine Coast, connecting the hinterland and our coastal communities from Beerwah to Caloundra to Kawana and terminating at Maroochydore;
2. Minister Mark Bailey's comments on 17 February 2022 that Sunshine Coast's heavy rail was 'an important part of the equation'; his remarks that 'not just with the Olympic Games coming and the need to move people around, but its population growth well before that, which is driving the need for heavy rail', and his statement reported on 6 December 2021 that the project 'is absolutely viable into the Sunshine Coast in the future'.

And calls on the members for Caloundra and Nicklin to support this rail project and on the state Labor government to immediately match the federal government commitment to ensure the Sunshine Coast heavy passenger rail from Beerwah to Caloundra to Kawana to Maroochydore is delivered.

This motion calls on the state Labor government to support heavy passenger rail to the Sunshine Coast. It also calls on the state Labor government to match the \$1.6 billion that the federal Morrison government has committed to the Sunshine Coast. We saw a disgraceful set of circumstances this morning when Treasurer Dick stood up in parliament and said the \$1.6 billion promised by the federal government was fake money.

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the Minister for Main Roads. He says 'fake money'. Here is the budget. I table this.

Tabled paper: Extract from Commonwealth Budget papers 2022-23, Part 2: Payment Measures, page 129, titled 'Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications: Infrastructure investment-Queensland' [450](#).

It says \$1.6 billion for the Brisbane to Sunshine Coast—the Beerwah to Maroochydore—rail extension. That is not fake money. That is in the budget. That is not a promise. That is money given to the state on a gold platter. The federal government has said to the state government, 'Here is the rail, \$1.6 billion.' All they have to do is commit the funding; so we are calling on the state government to commit the \$1.6 billion.

I heard the Minister for Main Roads talking this morning. He had said a while ago that it was a viable project, but now he is questioning it. They are not committing the funding. Labor is not committing the funding. Labor do not want the heavy passenger rail on the Sunshine Coast. But look what I found, the SEQ plan for transport 2031 signed by Anna Bligh and then transport minister Palaszczuk in 2011. Guess what? It says in here 'construct the Sunshine Coast rail line from Beerwah to Maroochydore'. It is their policy. All they have to do is fund it. I table a copy of Labor's policy document.

Tabled paper: Extract from Connecting SEQ 2013: An Integrated Regional Transport Plan for South East Queensland, pages 1, 47 and 129, regarding delivering an integrated transport network [451](#).

The transport minister waved around documents this morning. He would not be waving that around. I wonder if Premier Palaszczuk told him that document exists where she signed off on the rail project. We heard last week from the member for Caloundra—and I am also calling on him to support Sunshine Coast commuters and get the rail to the Sunshine Coast. During the sitting last week he said, 'A real leader is visible and present during a crisis.' Where was the Treasurer during the flood crisis? That was an attack on the Treasurer of the state. Then Treasurer Dick came in here this morning and said not only is it fake money; this is a federal government commitment only because they are LNP federal seats.

What about the state member for Caloundra? Did the Treasurer forget one of his own colleagues is in the parliament representing Caloundra? I will tell members what the difference is: they are in different factions. That is the problem. The Sunshine Coast community is missing out on rail infrastructure because the left-wingers like the member for Caloundra are fighting the right-wingers in the Labor Party like the Treasurer. Why will the state Labor government not commit the \$1.6 billion to deliver rail infrastructure to the Sunshine Coast? The Sunshine Coast does not want light rail. We do not want a glorified tram down Nicklin Way. Sunshine Coast residents deserve rail for the Sunshine Coast community. They do not want the fantasy light rail that the Sunshine Coast Council is going on about. They deserve a proper passenger heavy rail from Brisbane to Beerwah to Caloundra to Kawana and to Maroochydore. Nothing short of \$1.6 billion from the Labor government will cop it.

The Minister for Transport says that there is no business case. That did not stop the minister signing up to the Mooloolah River Interchange and taking the federal government money when he did not release his business case—no business case sitting on his desk, no publication of the business case—but he was happy to take the federal government money and take credit for the Mooloolah River Interchange. I would say this to Minister Bailey: mate, take the \$1.6 billion gifted to this Labor government on a platter from the federal government because then we will see proper rail infrastructure on the Sunshine Coast that Sunshine Coast residents deserve, not tomorrow but now. Bring the rail to the Sunshine Coast now and fund it!

(Time expired)