




Speech By
Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Record of Proceedings, 12 May 2022

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT

Mooloolah River, Harbour Entrance; Sunshine Coast, Rail Infrastructure

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.49 pm): I rise to raise the urgent safety issues in the Mooloolah River harbour entrance at the moment which I spoke about in the parliament earlier this week. Only this week another trawler was lodged on the sandbank and the government is not acting to protect commercial fishers or recreational fishers.

A government member: We are.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the minister in the chamber who says, 'We are,' but it is absolutely not because if the government was acting then these boats would not be getting stuck on the sandbank.

The government has taken no action. All it has been doing is little fill-in bits here and bandaids there. There needs to be a long-term solution to the safety issues in the Mooloolah River. The member for Maroochydore and I have met with community members. We recently met with Rachael Bermingham from the Beach Matters Group. Groups such as this have been writing to the minister and telling the government that it has to take serious and urgent action now and yet they are all being ignored by the state government. We are going to hold a community forum. I table a copy of a letter that I sent to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads inviting his department to the community forum so it can explain, if it thinks it has been doing all of this wonderful work on the harbour, to the crew members of the trawlers that continually get stuck.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 11 May 2022, from the member for Kawana, Mr Jarrod Bleijie MP, to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Hon. Mark Bailey, regarding the dangerous Mooloolah River harbour entrance [656](#).

Lives and livelihoods are at risk because the government is not acting in the interests of the people of the Sunshine Coast. Businesses are now telling me that they are moving their businesses from Mooloolah harbour to Brisbane because it is too unsafe for them to go to work through the bar each day. That is disgraceful. This is a huge commercial opportunity that will be wasted on the Sunshine Coast. I also raise the fight that the mayor of the Sunshine Coast is having with Ted O'Brien, and I table a copy of a *Sunshine Coast Daily* article.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Sunshine Coast news online*, dated 9 May 2022, titled 'Sunshine Coast Mayor slams Entertainment Centre vision as "mirage"' [657](#).

Let me make it absolutely abundantly clear for the Minister for Transport, who is in the House today: the LNP does not want light rail on the Sunshine Coast. Residents do not want light rail on the Sunshine Coast. We want heavy passenger rail that the federal government has committed to while 'old squawky' over there has been saying how rail is needed on the Sunshine Coast. If he was serious he would put the 50 per cent funding in and deliver heavy passenger rail, but I fear that the only one he is listening to is Mark Jamieson, who now somehow does not want an entertainment centre in Maroochydore but wants to move the Olympic basketball to Kawana.

I tell members: this is why the mayor wants it. He wants to justify Olympic basketball in Kawana so he can tell the state government, 'We don't need heavy passenger rail to Maroochydore because I've got this fantastic tram that will go from Caloundra to Maroochydore.' I suspect the mayor will say to this minister, 'Only bring heavy passenger rail to Caloundra and my light rail will take care of the rest.' I absolutely know what is happening with this mayor, because I do not trust him on the issue of light rail and heavy passenger rail. I say to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads: commit the 50 per cent funding to heavy passenger rail that Sunshine Coast commuters deserve. The federal government has and so should the state government.