




Speech By
Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Record of Proceedings, 26 October 2022

MOTION

Rockhampton Ring Road

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (5.57 pm): I absolutely support the motion moved by the member for Chatsworth because it highlights that the members for Keppel and Rockhampton say one thing in regional Queensland and another thing in Brisbane and South-East Queensland. They are too afraid to stand up to the Labor Party machine in Brisbane and say no. All they can do is little words, 'I am disappointed,' and then they wait for the, 'What is going to happen to me?' That is the best they can offer their electorate: 'I am disappointed.' They should be more than disappointed. They should take a page out of the Premier's playbook. They should be outraged! They should be angry! They should be eyeballing the Minister for Transport and Main Roads! They should be furious! But, no, they are disappointed. That is the best they can do. The courage of their conviction is they are disappointed. They are not even cranky, angry, outraged; they are just disappointed. They should be all of that!

Then we have the Minister for Transport and Main Roads whingeing at the start that the member for Chatsworth was talking about other projects, and then he proceeded to move a very broad amendment which talks about all projects. Then we had the member for Maryborough stand up and say he is confused, and then he said, 'I am wondering where I am.' We are debating how the Labor Party, in particular the members for Keppel and Rockhampton, have let down their community. That is what we are doing right now, member for Maryborough, just to fix up your confusion.

Then the member for Keppel stood up. To beat the member for Maryborough, who is confused, she said, 'I'm perplexed.' What is perplexing about the members for Keppel and Rocky not representing their communities? There is nothing confusing or perplexing about it. It is just a lack of representation in this parliament that those communities have because their members are essentially advocating for Brisbane priorities, not regional Queensland priorities.

Then the member for Rockhampton stood up, and I had to write down what he said because it was like a fleeting moment: it came and went and I forgot he spoke. He said it may come as a surprise that he is supporting the amendment moved by the transport and main roads minister. It is not really a surprise; I would expect a Labor backbencher to do that for the minister. Then the minister, the member for Gladstone, stood up, and he said, 'A member spoke in this House for five minutes not about the ring-road.' I put to you, Mr Deputy Speaker, that was every Labor member because the original motion was about the Rockhampton Ring Road and most of them forgot to mention it. In fact, the transport and main roads minister, who was banging on about other members being off subject, mentioned the Rockhampton Ring Road in the last 10 seconds of his contribution. We know as well as the members for Rockhampton and Keppel that the Minister for Transport and Main Roads has failed regional Queensland. He has failed South-East Queensland. He has—

Mr BAILEY: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I find the comments from the member personally offensive and I ask that they be withdrawn.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): The member has found that comment personally offensive and has asked that it be withdrawn. Will you withdraw?

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. You have ruled on frivolous points of order. The word that I understand I used was not unparliamentary. The minister is attempting to interrupt speeches again. You have already ruled on frivolous points of order and I would ask if that again is a frivolous point of order.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will take some advice. Resume your seat, and I will take the advice in silence. There is no point of order. You referred directly to a member. They found that offensive. They have asked you to withdraw. You have acknowledged that and withdrawn.

Mr BLEIJIE: Let me refer to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads as the CCC did. He is a very foolish minister, a very foolish member of parliament. What a fool he is. That is the reality we have in Queensland. We have a Labor government—

Mr BAILEY: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I find that personally offensive and I ask he withdraw it.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would ask you to take a seat while I take some advice. Member for Kawana, the language you used is unparliamentary and the member has found it offensive. I ask you to withdraw.

Mr BLEIJIE: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. The record of the Labor Party in Queensland—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, I would ask you to withdraw.

Mr BLEIJIE: I thought I said 'withdraw'. I withdraw. The record of the Labor Party will stand. This government includes the members for Keppel and Rockhampton, who just said they are disappointed in the ring-road being blown out. They should be more than disappointed because it is a \$700 million blowout. At some point we would expect TMR officials to say when they put a project to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads with his history of budget blowouts, 'For goodness sake, you have to double it, triple it, quadruple it.' Anything this Minister for Transport touches doubles, triples—whatever it is. It blows out. There is a huge budget blowout in so many areas.

Mr BAILEY: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I find those words personally offensive and inaccurate and I ask they be withdrawn.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member has taken personal offence. I would ask you to withdraw.

Mr POWELL: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The comments were referring to the department, not the minister in any way, shape or form.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I will hear the point of order and deal with it in silence. I do not need the assistance of all and sundry. There is no point of order. The member was referring to the department by reference to the minister. The minister has asked that you withdraw. I ask that you withdraw.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. The record shows there are so many projects in Queensland, like Cross River Rail and others right around Queensland, that have blown out under the TMR minister, Bailey. That is the record. The members for Rockhampton and Keppel should be absolutely ashamed, as the Minister for Transport should be ashamed, that accountability is dead in Queensland. He does not want to be held accountable to this parliament and he should be.

(Time expired)