




Speech By
Jason Hunt

MEMBER FOR CALOUNDRA

Record of Proceedings, 30 March 2022

MOTION

Sunshine Coast, Rail Infrastructure

 **Mr HUNT** (Caloundra—ALP) (5.23 pm): I rise to speak in favour of the amended motion of the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. The very idea that the LNP is suddenly concerned about transport infrastructure on the Sunshine Coast beggars belief. The party that struggled to deliver a single set of traffic lights in Caloundra are now going to deliver a train line? I am not kidding about the traffic lights. The residents of Ridgewood Road waited 17 years for the previous LNP member to deliver a set of lights, and they could not quite manage it. I recall the former member for Caloundra, the member for Kawana and the member for Glass House standing on the Caloundra Road roundabout in 2017—between the three of them almost 30 years in this House, all three of them former ministers of the Newman government 24 months previously—and not a single surveyor's peg was planted in any of the traffic projects around that road. The LNP represented the region including Caloundra for more than 116 years prior to 2020, but apparently they need more time—116 years was simply not enough. After 116 years I would not trust them to install the railway set that circles my Christmas tree.

I thank the minister for his commitment to the people in my electorate and the Sunshine Coast community. I support the comments from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads that we do not know where the \$1.6 billion is coming from and nor, apparently, do the federal members. It echoes the Morrison government's announcement of \$4 billion for fast rail from Geelong to Melbourne leading up to the last federal election. The Victorian government said, 'Wait up. That is a \$10 billion to \$15 billion project.' Scott Morrison has spent the last three years de-scoping the project to fit within a \$4 billion envelope. Not one sod turned, not one spade in the ground. Construction might commence in the next term of federal parliament subject to approval. This is a promise from Scott Morrison—'Honest Scotty' as we all know him. All announcement and no delivery and a man described in the Australian Senate recently by one of his own as unfit for office and a ruthless bully.

In considering this motion it is useful for the House to consider the LNP's record on road and rail. More than half a million people are expected to be living on the Sunshine Coast within 20 years and only this government is delivering the infrastructure necessary to support that population: our record \$27.5 billion roads and transport funding includes \$2.9 billion for the North Coast region. Our record investment is in stark contrast to what the LNP took to the 2020 election, which cut \$700 million from the Sunshine Coast and regional Queensland roads. I know! The LNP and cutting? Who would have seen that coming? The \$9.8 million for the Beckmans Road interjection—gone; \$3.75 million for the Ridgewood Road traffic lights—gone. They are the lights that they could not provide for 17 years and when we provided it they were going to cut the funding. The \$18 million for the upgrade of Six Mile Creek Bridge—gone; \$18 million for Steve Irwin Way—gone; \$19 million for the D'Aguiar Highway—gone. Who can forget the LNP highway hoax of \$33 billion to duplicate the Bruce Highway from Cooroy to Cairns? The LNP's costings revealed that they only had \$50 million for a consultant. They were only \$32 billion short! The residents of the Sunshine Coast saw through the LNP's slogans and backed our Premier's strong infrastructure plan resolve and our new members on the Sunshine Coast.

In conclusion, I support a heavy rail link to the Sunshine Coast. If one looks at the Palaszczuk government's record one will see a record of delivery: Beerburrum to Nambour—planned and costed; Cross River Rail—planned, costed and investment decision made, now in the delivery phase; Kuraby to Beenleigh—planned, costed, investment decision made, and now subject to detailed design; Beerwah to the coast—now in the planning phase. Through good planning, robust costings and detailed design our government is delivering for the Sunshine Coast as the LNP never could. The LNP, in particular the opposition MPs on the Sunshine Coast, need to decide if they are on the side of the Sunshine Coast or on the side of the Morrison-Joyce government.