




Speech By
Jonty Bush

MEMBER FOR COOPER

Record of Proceedings, 30 March 2022

MOTION

Sunshine Coast, Rail Infrastructure

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (5.55 pm): I rise to support the motion as amended by the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. I start by acknowledging my two incredibly hardworking colleagues the member for Caloundra and the member for Nicklin. I am confident in saying that the people of Caloundra and Nicklin have never before had members of this calibre—such hardworking and committed representatives who get great results for their communities. The Morrison-Joyce government appears to agree. I am sure they have been looking at our election results, looking at what the members for Caloundra and Nicklin have achieved in 18 months and worked out that they might be in a bit of trouble. Members heard it here first: these formerly blue ribbon seats are at risk and the federal LNP know it. After decades of negligence under the LNP, the Sunshine Coast has had a gutful and are getting ready to replace the members for Fisher and Fairfax.

What has the Morrison-Joyce government done in response? They have not gone out and found new candidates who will work for their electorates. They have not told the members for Fisher and Fairfax to stop taking their communities for granted. They have done what they always do which is throw a big cash promise at the problem. It will not work. The Sunshine Coast voters can see right through it. They know the LNP are all about announcement and no delivery.

They know that from experience. Under the Newman government, five Sunshine Coast MPs served in cabinet—the member for Kawana; the member for Glass House; the former member for Caloundra, Mark McArdle; the former member for Buderim, Steve Dickson; and the former member for Noosa. Even with all of that representation around the cabinet table, those opposite still took the Sunshine Coast for granted and left them behind. The people of the Sunshine Coast are sick and tired of a lazy LNP government and lazy local members. They know that only Labor governments can be relied on to deliver for them.

The future CAMCOS project—whatever form it will take and however much it will cost once planning is done—will only be possible because of this government's investment in projects like Cross River Rail. By unlocking the rail bottleneck in the centre of Brisbane, we are opening up capacity across the entire South-East Queensland network, paving the way for further upgrades. That would not be possible if those opposite were in power. Tony Abbott slashed the federal funding for Cross River Rail. Campbell Newman cancelled the project altogether. At successive elections we saw those opposite commit to cancelling the project again.

Thank God for the Palaszczuk government that is not only building Cross River Rail but also funding it solo after the federal LNP refused to restore their funding. We asked Canberra for the funding and they knocked it back. Do members know why the federal LNP knocked it back? They said Infrastructure Australia was still waiting on planning documents even though we had secured all the necessary approvals.

Here we are, five years and a pretend Prime Minister later, with a \$1.6 billion commitment for a project with no business case. The people on the Sunshine Coast will see this for the cheap political stunt that it is and they will see this thanks to the amazing members for Caloundra and Nicklin, who have shown them what actually delivering for a community looks like.

The Palaszczuk government is delivering for the Sunshine Coast with projects like the Mooloolah River Interchange, after those opposite did nothing to progress that project; the Bells Creek Arterial Road; and the Beerburrum to Nambour rail upgrade. These projects are only funded thanks to the work of this government.

We are delivering \$27.5 billion worth of roads and transport infrastructure that our rapidly growing state needs because that is what Labor governments do. We deliver. I look forward to us continuing to deliver infrastructure for our state and for the Sunshine Coast alongside an Albanese Labor government who will never take the Sunshine Coast for granted.