



Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

Record of Proceedings, 17 August 2022


APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation Bill

Legal Affairs and Safety Committee, Report

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (2.51 pm): I rise to speak on the tabling of the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee report. The committee was well chaired by the member for Toohey and well supported by the members for Cooper and Caloundra. They are all hardworking members of great integrity whose confidence and judgement can be relied upon when it matters.

The member for Scenic Rim is a member to whom I would have no hesitation in offering a confidential advance briefing with respect to matters that are sensitive to his community. I would say the same for the member for Noosa, but I certainly cannot say the same for the member for Currumbin due to her tawdry contribution to the committee on the day as she has shown that she cannot be trusted on matters, unlike some of her own colleagues. She did not even have the courage to come to the correct committee and asked about a matter where Transport and Main Roads was the responsible department. Instead, she asked a cheap political question at the wrong committee.

On 12 July TMR officers met with the member for Currumbin to provide a courtesy and in-confidence briefing about the proposed category C gazettal of a corridor for the proposed Gold Coast Light Rail stage 4 project, part of early planning for a better public transport system for the southern Gold Coast. Briefings of this nature are provided to members because of gazettal processes and because the establishment of road, rail and light rail corridors can be distressing for members of the public who are impacted landholders. Transport and Main Roads understands that landholders may contact their local members to seek advice once that process begins, so it is important for members to understand the approach taken by Transport and Main Roads for handling that contact. The in-confidence nature of those discussions means that the Transport and Main Roads officers will be comfortable to share information with members.

It is disappointing to say the least, therefore, that the member for Currumbin breached the confidence provided to her to make a pathetic political point at the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee budget estimates hearing. She asked the minister whether the police station and Magistrates Court would be demolished as part of light rail stage 4. The member for Currumbin then added two and two together to invent a fictional scenario. That was a pathetic and low act. After misusing the privilege granted to her and breaching that confidence, the member for Currumbin subsequently used the information from that briefing to go on a petty political politicking spree on ABC Radio on the Gold Coast.

Noting that the project is years away from an investment decision, the member for Currumbin only needed to wait until TMR had completed the early notification period and commenced the public consultation on the gazettal process—a matter of only a few months—before going on her political pointscoring exercise.

For the record, advance and in-confidence briefings by Transport and Main Roads are not provided to seek a member's support for a proposal nor to manage the politics of any proposal. They are to help manage sensitive processes around people who own property. Of course, in a functioning democracy members may take a public position about any transport proposal that is not consistent with the government position at an appropriate time—in this case, once Transport and Main Roads has finalised the process of notification and commences public consultation towards the end of October.

For the member for Currumbin to go out there trying to scare people about fictional scenarios around taking away police services to her local community is one of the lower acts I have seen in this place and to see her trying to scare property owners is consistent with the low standards set by the Leader of the Opposition, who did not tell the truth and who misled this House for five months about the laptop, was exposed and will not apologise, will not acknowledge it, will not tell the truth. We see the member for Currumbin using the same low tactics as the member for Broadwater and Leader of the Opposition. It is pathetic and low politics of the lowest order called out by Ian Leavers, called out by Bill Potts and called out, I might add, by a lot of members of the community who hate this sort of nasty politics when this was an appropriate process.

It is a breach of trust. It was a question to the wrong minister. She did not have the courage to ask me the question in my committee, that is for sure. She did not have the courage to come to the correct committee and ask me because it would have been the relevant committee and it would have been answered appropriately. It was the wrong committee. It was a pathetically low act from a pathetically low member. She should apologise for her pathetic behaviour.