




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR BONNEY

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ADJOURNMENT

Second M1, Delays

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (7.24 pm): Having an alternative to the M1 for local traffic is the biggest infrastructure need for the central and northern Gold Coast. It is not good enough for so many people in Queensland's second largest city to have to jump on a national highway to drive between our suburbs. No work has started on this road. The Minister for Transport and Main Roads has been in the job for seven years but he has utterly failed to deliver the second M1. Today we saw that he could not even deliver on a Dorothy Dixier. A *Gold Coast Bulletin* story this morning said that Minister Bailey 'revealed the latest stunning twist in the building of the second M1 during question time in state parliament on Tuesday'. The only problem was that it never happened. The minister gave a copy of what he was going to say in parliament to the media, but he did not actually say it in parliament. Thankfully the House was spared this contribution, but it is worth addressing to clear things up.

The federal government chipped in \$750 million to get this road built. In 2021 the state government then blew out the project cost by over 30 per cent. To get this project underway and to stop the state government blaming them for any delays, the federal LNP quickly put in their half of the cost, an extra \$316 million, within just weeks. All of the funding from the Commonwealth is committed and budgeted, and I checked with the federal government today about Minister Bailey's claims. It turns out that the payments from the Commonwealth are only made when these state projects reach particular milestones.

The \$70 million payment is currently available to the state, but the Queensland government has not put in their claim to this funding. Could this be because no work has started on the new road? The business case has not even been released. We do not have detailed plans, only artists' impressions. The environmental impact reports will not be released until June.

Also, despite costing 30 per cent more, we are getting a four-lane road instead of a six-lane road, and it is split into two stages with the first of the stages being built in three packages. On 26 April I received an update on one of those three stages from TMR's Gold Coast office. It said that two joint venture contractors had been selected to progress the preliminary design for Stage 1 Central. It went on to say, 'An agreement to even finalise the design will not be reached, at best, until late 2022'—and that is all before they even get on to building the road. This lack of action is a disgrace, especially from a minister who has been in the Main Roads job for over seven years.

Today was just another attempt by this Labor government to blame the federal LNP for a project that only the state can build. The Gold Coast deserves better. We need a second M1 and it should not be taking this long to deliver. Minister, get off Twitter and start building the second M1.