




Speech By
Samuel O'Connor

MEMBER FOR BONNEY

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ADJOURNMENT

Coomera Connector

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (7.25 pm): I rise to again bring to the attention of this House the unbearable congestion situation we have on the central and northern Gold Coast and the fact that it is taking longer and longer for people to drive anywhere within the top central and northern part of our city. It is completely ridiculous. It is pretty much any time of the day that people are being stuck in traffic for far longer than they should be. The only way to resolve that is by building an alternative to the M1—a second M1, or the Coomera Connector.

Mr Bailey: Which you blocked.

Mr O'CONNOR: I am glad the minister is in the House. This is the minister who said that construction will begin on this project—this was in October 2020 just before the state election. The direct quote from the minister was, 'Construction will begin by the middle of next year, which is just nine months away.' We found a quiet update on the Coomera Connector TMR project website which shows yet another delay to the project.

The public environment report, which was meant to be released mid this year, has now been pushed back to the end of this year. This is, of course, from the federal government's EPBC referral, which the state government got in August 2020 and they had all the guidelines for this EPBC controlled action set in October 2020.

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order, Minister! Your interjections are not being taken.

Mr O'CONNOR: It is a completely ridiculous situation and it is another six-month delay to the project, which is already one year overdue. We have also had the summary business case release, which is, of course, disappointing because it is not the whole business case—

Mr Boothman: It doesn't say anything.

Mr O'CONNOR: The member for Theodore and I are very much looking forward to seeing some more details for our residents who live next to where this new road will go. What it does confirm is that this minister, after criticising the LNP ad nauseam before the last election—

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Miller, you are warned.

Mr O'CONNOR: He does not like to have his failures raised. After criticising the LNP ad nauseam before the last election for proposing a four-lane road, the summary business case now confirms that the entire stage 1 of the Coomera Connector will be a four-lane road. This is after a massive blowout of \$600 million. We are now getting less road for more money. It is a completely ridiculous situation.

Also, after criticising the LNP before the last election for proposing a three-stage road, the summary business case confirms that the first stage of the government's two-stage road will be built in three construction packages. That is a completely ridiculous level of spin. It is three stages for their first stage alone. That means that this road is going to take longer and longer to deliver. There is no way that we will be driving on the full stage 1 section before the next state election. We deserve better for the northern Gold Coast. We deserve a government who actually delivers for us.