



Speech By  
**Steve Minnikin**

**MEMBER FOR CHATSWORTH**

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Record of Proceedings, 26 October 2022

**MOTION**

**Rockhampton Ring Road**

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (5.00 pm): I move—

That this House notes the importance of delivering the Rockhampton Ring Road as planned and the failure of the members for Rockhampton and Keppel in advocating for their communities.

It gives me great pleasure to speak to the motion in relation to the Rockhampton Ring Road calling out the failures of the members for Rockhampton and Keppel in advocating for their local communities. I asked the members on my side how many years did they think the member for Miller has been the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Let us talk about main roads. Let us park public transport because that is a train wreck in itself. We only found out literally 15 minutes ago that apparently, according to the member for Greenslopes, it is now \$9 billion. We might come back to that a bit later on. Has the minister been the main roads minister for five years? No, a bit more. Six? More. He has been the main roads minister for seven years.

**Mr BAILEY:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I know this is a broad debate, but the member is more than a minute in and he has not even addressed the motion yet. Can he actually address his own motion? That might be helpful for the chamber.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): There is no point of order.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I warn the member for Scenic Rim. I was on my feet. I had called the House to order. One member was overly exuberant and calmed down, but you continued so I warn you. I issue a general warning that when I am taking advice or when I am considering points of order that will be done in silence or I will be warning people.

**Mr MINNIKIN:** Last time I checked, this ultimately came under the remit of the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. That is the connection. I might point that out to the member for Miller in case he is a little confused. It has been seven years and in that time we have had a litany of excuses from the member for Miller as the main roads minister. I will come to the member for Rockhampton and the member for Keppel, but let us continue talking about the minister in charge of this project. This is a minister who is a minister in charge of his own call centre: press 1 to blame the previous LNP administration; press 2 to blame the previous Morrison government; press 3 to blame the war in the Ukraine; or press 4 to hear these choices again.

The reality is that under this minister's watch this project is another Minister Bailey budget blowout of, this time, \$700 million. No doubt when he gets on his feet to give his contribution he will talk about excuse No. 2 in his own call centre—blame the previous Morrison government—and he will talk about rampant inflation. Let us talk about inflation. I am going to use something that might be a little bit beyond the member for Miller's comprehension. It is the Laspeyres Price Index, the international index for measuring inflation.

Let us look over the last few years. In 2018 there was a 1.91 per cent inflation rate; in 2019 it was 1.61 per cent; in 2020 it was 0.85 per cent; in 2021 it was 2.86 per cent and, with the lag of COVID, yes, 7¼ per cent. If members want to know why this has been an ‘absolute nothing happening’ project—and I will come back to these two local members in the last bit of my contribution—let us talk about the fact that the 27 to 28 per cent increase is because of best practice industry principles. We have the situation of a cosy relationship between the member for Miller, the transport and main roads minister, and the people who actually put him in his seat, the CFMMEU. He is completely beholden to them.

Let us have a look at what some of his colleagues have said locally. The member for Keppel said, ‘Our region needs major projects like the Rockhampton Ring Road to keep people employed as our economy recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic.’ That is not a bad start, but what about the member for Rockhampton? He said, ‘Being a regional community, we need to invest in delivering infrastructure and services, so that families get access to quality education, health and transport services.’ When he was responding only 48 hours ago to what has transpired—as in, ‘bing bong’ nothing—there was a one-word response from the member for Rockhampton: disappointing. That is very disappointing.

What is more disappointing is the fact that we have had two different consortia that have spent—I do not know what the figure would be but coming from the private sector it would not have been cheap tendering for two packages of work, north and south. For their efforts they have a delayed project yet again under probably this state’s most incompetent transport minister.