




Speech By
Brent Mickelberg

MEMBER FOR BUDERIM

Record of Proceedings, 11 May 2023

ADJOURNMENT

Wilson, Ms N, OAM; Sugar Road and Mooloolaba Road Intersection, Upgrade

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (5.05 pm): As we sit here in Cairns for regional parliament, I rise to pay tribute to Naomi Wilson OAM, a former member for Mulgrave, a minister in the LNP Borbidge government, a tireless community advocate and visionary. Naomi served as the member for Mulgrave between 1995 and 1998. However, her service to the people of the Far North extends some 49 years.

Her achievements are many, but establishing Queensland's first playgroup and the Trinity Anglican School are both notable. When Naomi was asked how she came to be so involved with the community, Naomi said, 'I don't know how I got involved with these things, I just sort of did ... people called me the playgroup lady.' 'I just did': that sums up Naomi Wilson OAM to a tee—a committed community champion and a doer.

After leaving parliament, Naomi has remained passionately involved in trying to deliver for Indigenous communities like Yarrabah and Woorabinda. Although Naomi has now relocated to live in Buderim, her heart lies in the Far North. As she is one of my constituents, I now have the benefit of Naomi's deep experience and advice. Naomi's knowledge of the challenges facing disadvantaged young Queenslanders has helped inform my response to the challenges that our community is facing at this time. The Far North's loss has been Buderim's gain but, on behalf of all Queenslanders, I would like to pay tribute to Naomi Wilson OAM for a lifetime of service.

On a separate note, I would like to address the state government's failure to get work started on the Sugar Road and Mooloolaba Road intersection. In early 2019 the state government committed to upgrade that important intersection, which thousands of my constituents use every single day. Prior to that, I met with the Minister for Transport and Main Roads on site and he, alongside with Transport and Main Roads staff, acknowledged the need for the upgrade to reduce congestion and improve safety. It was one of the few heartening examples of where a Labor minister has been willing to work in a collaborative way for my community.

Unfortunately, after that promising start, the project has languished ever since. After a lengthy period for design and consultation, work was supposed to start this time last year, but we still have not seen a shovel in the ground. My community has had enough. The delays need to stop. Work needs to commence and the state government need to honour their commitment to build these much needed upgrades.

Whether it is the upgrades to the Sugar Road and Mooloolaba Road intersection, duplicating the Sunshine Coast rail line, fixing the bottleneck that is the Mooloolah River interchange or a multitude of other projects across the Sunshine Coast, work under this minister seems to be perpetually stalled. I am not sure whether it is because the minister is incompetent or because he has no inclination to build the roads, the rail and the infrastructure that the Sunshine Coast deserves.

The Sunshine Coast community deserves better than they are getting under this Palaszczuk Labor government. I will not accept further inaction on the Sugar Road and Mooloolaba Road intersection.

(Time expired)