




Speech By
Brent Mickelberg

MEMBER FOR BUDERIM

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MOTION

Sunshine Coast

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (5.46 pm): That from the member for Nicklin—the man whose slogan is ‘Robbo gets things done’! With passionate advocacy like that, is there any doubt that Nambour is on its knees? I give points to member for Nicklin for trying, but I think it was Abraham Lincoln who said, ‘Better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to speak and remove all doubt.’ To quote another famous Australian, ‘I won’t comment on that anymore.’

Our Sunshine Coast community is rightly outraged over Labor’s funding cuts to the critical Mooloolah River Interchange project. They are outraged. Now that Labor’s federal mates have cut their funding, residents want to see a commitment from the state government to make up that shortfall so work can start.

Ask any local and they will tell you that the section of the Sunshine Motorway at Mountain Creek—which was to be upgraded to stage 1—is one of the worst in the state for crashes and traffic congestion. Mountain Creek locals live every single day with the impact of road noise and sirens and of congestion and accidents on the Sunshine Motorway. In fact, I did a press conference just the other day with the member for Caloundra to talk about traffic and on the way there I got stuck in traffic at the single-lane section of the Sunshine Motorway. Traffic slows to a crawl day in day out. What have we heard from the Labor members in the member for Caloundra and the member for Nicklin? Nothing.

The state government’s own business case for the Mooloolah River Interchange shows that the project will deliver \$4 of benefit for every \$1 spent and that the Sunshine Coast community will save more than \$2.8 billion in reduced travel times and operating costs—but Labor have cut the project. Yet they are funding a project in the form of Logan to Gold Coast Faster Rail where the business case says it will only deliver 62 cents for every \$1 spent and, I might add, that is calculated on the \$2.44 billion project cost, not the \$3.1 billion blowout announced yesterday.

You have to ask the question: why does Labor hate the Sunshine Coast and why are Labor members like the member for Nicklin and the member for Caloundra silent while our community suffers? Our community is suffering. Our community cannot wait any longer. The congestion and safety risks are only going to get worse. The state government need to step up to the mark, show that they are committed to the Sunshine Coast and reverse their Labor mates’ cuts on the Mooloolah River Interchange and on heavy passenger rail through to Maroochydore.

The member for Nicklin and the member for Caloundra both love nodding along when Minister Bailey blows in to make an announcement, but they both go missing in action when the going gets tough. They have both been missing as the federal government has taken the axe to critical projects on the Sunshine Coast—heavy passenger rail to Maroochydore and the Mooloolah River Interchange—and they remain silent still. The member for Nicklin even stands silent in relation to delivering on Labor’s own promise to duplicate the rail line through to Landsborough. Labor committed to that in 2018 and

we still have not seen any progress. It does not bode well for heavy passenger rail to Maroochydore, which I reckon is on about its 50th business case or review. Labor promised that back in May 2007. They said it would be built all the way to Caloundra by 2015—nothing; Maroochydore by 2020—nothing. Work never started. It was another hollow Labor promise. There is a pattern here.

Only a Crisafulli LNP government will deliver for the Sunshine Coast. In Marty Hunt, Kendall Morton and Clare Stewart the Sunshine Coast will have the tireless community advocates we deserve—members who will fight for the Sunshine Coast, not aimless plodders who will nod along behind incompetent Labor ministers like Minister Mark Bailey, who has presided over a generation of failure and countless blowouts. It is the Sunshine Coast that misses out because of those blowouts, and it is because aimless plodders like the member for Nicklin stand there and nod along. They do not want to take up their fight to incompetent ministers. I will not hold them to account for the failures of Mark Bailey, but I will hold them to account for not fighting for their communities.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Use correct titles, please.

Mr MICKELBERG: I will not hold them to account for the failures of the Minister for Transport and Main Roads and the Premier, but they should be fighting for their communities and they are not. We need a member for Nicklin who will stand and fight for the community—a member for like Nicklin like Marty Hunt. We do not need a member for Nicklin who, three years into the job, is still not trusted to do a press conference on his own. Who can really blame the Premier? We have seen his social media indiscretions, his drunken estimate escapades and his penchant for abusing his constituents, but he remains silent on the big issues affecting the Sunshine Coast. In a year's time the LNP will demonstrate that we have the right priorities for Queensland's future, and it will be time for Nicklin to show Robbo the door in '24!