




Speech By
Fiona Simpson

MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE

Record of Proceedings, 15 March 2023

MOTION: GABBA REDEVELOPMENT

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (5.38 pm): We have just heard it is the Premier's stadium, according to the transport minister! We know that she already thinks it is the Premier's Olympics. The abuse we have just seen with regard to the basics of accountability! This government thinks they have had a 170 per cent blowout because in a billion dollar project they forgot to include female toilets. They forgot—shock! horror!—to follow the law with regard to disability access, so do not blame us if we want to increase the price again by \$1.7 billion because this Labor government was so incompetent when they came up with a billion dollar project they forgot to put the loos in the right place with access for everybody. How can we trust them? That is why this motion of the opposition is so important.

Let the sunshine in. Release the actual business cases. Were there business cases? The Auditor-General has belled the cat. He has exposed the fact that the only information he had in regard to the billion dollar price tag was essentially a media release, yet this government have the gall to actually stand up, trying to keep a straight face, and say, 'No, it's the cost blowouts in construction and the fact there weren't women-specific toilets and changing rooms and disability access.' How incompetent are they? There is supposed to be a whole machinery of government to do the planning and the scoping, yet they have come up with a billion dollar project that did not have that. Minister, you should resign after that appalling contribution.

Mr SPEAKER: Comments will be directed through the chair.

Ms SIMPSON: That minister over there, the Minister for Transport, has presided over multiple projects with multiple blowouts, yet he comes into this place with projects that will potentially cost other Queenslanders the infrastructure they need if they are not managed in a way that respects the fact it is not the Premier's stadium or the Premier's Olympics, but it is the people's money. Have some respect for Queenslanders. Have some respect for the \$10 billion you have overblown your budgets, and the minister over there is largely responsible for that. What a joke. They want to blame cost blowouts on labour and construction index increases which is beyond anything anywhere else in Australia. They are very special indeed.

Our motion is also about releasing the business cases. Why is this government against integrity? They talk about it before elections; they vote against it on the floor of the House. Let the sunshine in with regard to the real facts and figures. Do not hide the figures. Trust the people. It is their money. It is their Olympics. It is their future that is being mortgaged by this government that has no respect for the dollars that are being spent.

The *Let the sunshine in* report had some critical comments about commercial-in-confidence and the way this government hides behind it as a personal shield. They say that things are commercial-in-confidence, like Wellcamp where over \$220 million was spent. What is going to happen with the Olympics when another billion dollars here or billion dollars there is wasted? People do not get their hospitals. They do not get their birthing services. They do not get the rail, roads and other services through all of Queensland that they not only deserve but also have paid for. This government has mortgaged and wasted it because of poor planning.

The government have the audacity to come in here and say they are going to vote against releasing the information. What has the government got to hide? Release it, Minister, I say through the chair. All of the cabinet ministers need to release it. Trust the people. Trust them with the money because it is theirs. They should see this. If we are going to see success in infrastructure in this state, the government have to release the information and show accountability and integrity. They need to start building some infrastructure that will serve all of Queenslanders to deliver what they need in the future because they deserve that.

That is why I support this motion. That is why it will be an absolute disgrace if the government votes against integrity measures to release the information. The Premier was elected on a platform of integrity and accountability but she has changed. The Olympics is hers, and we heard from the transport minister that the stadium is hers, thus the 170 per cent blowout is hers, and now she is taking it in-house because apparently there will be fewer cost blowouts. Well, pigs may fly backwards.