




Speech By
Fiona Simpson

MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

**Maroochydore Electorate, Rail Infrastructure; Palaszczuk Labor Government,
Performance**

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (2.13 pm): It is time to build the rail to Maroochydore, not block it. The 2032 Olympics are at risk of becoming Premier Palaszczuk's personal plaything rather than a games for all of Queensland after the eye-watering \$1.7 billion blowout on the Gabba upgrade has put at risk true legacy infrastructure that will serve all communities on the Sunshine Coast, South-East Queensland and all parts of Queensland. The failure of this government to grasp the \$1.6 billion that was available from the previous federal coalition government, match it and then get on with the business of building the rail is not just disappointing; it is a lost opportunity to build the infrastructure we need today and into the future. It is also a failure of the Premier's leadership when she has promised to be a Premier for all of Queensland, but apparently she is only a Premier for her mates.

Former premier Beattie promised to have rail to Maroochydore built by 2020 and then transport minister, Minister Bailey, shunned the \$1.6 billion by delay and distraction and any disruption he could come up with and any excuse not to match it. Last night he tabled a redacted copy of the North Coast Connect business case and claimed that he could not read a single figure. Perhaps the minister should ask his department for those figures given that it was involved in that business case. As the member for Kawana outlined earlier, there have been a lot of business cases and there has been a lot of work, but what we are seeing now is a government desperate to spin its wheels and go nowhere on the infrastructure that is required for all Queensland communities. Whether those communities vote for this government or not, it is time that this was a government for all of Queensland. It is a disgrace that it has failed to step up and get this project happening. It desperately needs to happen.

I also want to address a serious issue around workforce reports. The Palaszczuk Labor government has turned its back on transparency with revelations this week that it has deliberately withheld a critical report which we believe shows cuts to frontline police, teachers and nurses. A question on notice has revealed that it has scrapped the latest release of the *Queensland public sector workforce profile* report and I believe this is a deliberate move to keep Queenslanders in the dark, not being open and transparent with Queenslanders, throwing out the Coaldrake report about letting the sunshine in by hiding the figures and saying that it needs to work on them more. We do not know when it is going to release the report. We do not know what format it is going to release it in given that there has been an established format. There is a real risk that it is going to launder the figures—wash the figures, hide the information—and Queenslanders deserve more.