




Speech By
Fiona Simpson

MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE

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MOTION

State Development and Regional Industries Committee, 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (5.43 pm): How afraid is this government of accountability, scrutiny and transparency? Well, apparently a lot, because the Deputy Premier has moved a motion to say that the parliament will not have access through a parliamentary committee so there can be true scrutiny of the infrastructure and services that have to be delivered in the lead-up to the Olympics. This government is scared of integrity and it is scared of transparency. We have heard these tame little poodle chairs of the government committees saying, 'We don't want to have a committee that looks at the Olympics and provides that scrutiny.' That would be a committee doing its job in the true tradition that Fitzgerald said parliamentary committees should be doing—that is, holding the executive government to account. No, we have got tame poodles of chairs of committees—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Member for Maroochydore, I would encourage you to use correct titles. I also believe you have used some unparliamentary language and I ask you to withdraw.

Ms SIMPSON: I withdraw. Mr Deputy Speaker—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hang on. You can withdraw, but I have not given you the call yet. You have the call.

Ms SIMPSON: The government chairs of the committees are not only tame with regard to doing the bidding of this Labor government; they gag committees regularly and then we do not see the minutes of those committees showing their acts to gag the efforts of non-government members to hold inquiries because they bury them for 30 years. That is an abuse of process and it is an abuse of the committee system. We also see an abuse of the estimates process when those chairs and some of the Labor backbenchers try to run down the clock and stop scrutiny.

That is why it is outrageous for the Deputy Premier to move this motion to remove the opportunity for a parliamentary committee to inquire into and keep account of this executive government in the build-up to the Olympics. Queensland deserves to have an Olympics legacy that serves all of Queensland, not just the Premier's ego and not just those who will have one or two hero projects while the true legacy of opportunity is lost because this government is incapable of building infrastructure in a timely way and on budget.

I want to address a concern I have which came about through a contribution of the Coordinator-General and Director-General of the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning, Mike Kaiser. He joined by live video the Sunshine Coast Infrastructure Summit on 2 June 2023. I am going to table a transcript of his contribution so members can read that in greater detail.

I do not blame Mr Kaiser; I blame the government that he is wedded at the hip to serving. The only legacies he could talk about in his contribution to that infrastructure summit were lifestyle, health and sustainability. I am trying to think what else he said. It was certainly our First Nations design and accessibility. They are lofty things to aspire to but there was no detail and that is the problem with this government. He is just a mandarin of this government. What we see is a government that has no plan they are willing to stand up and be proud of and see the accountability measures.

We have very tame committee chairs—I was going to say an unparliamentary word about some of our chairs—who are just doing the bidding of this government. The government do not want to have a program of the Olympics. We need to see a transport program that connects all of South-East Queensland. We need to see the rail to Maroochydore, which was part of the documents that the council of mayors put forward, along with a visionary program to have a true legacy of transport. We need to see a legacy of development of sports facilities for the state that are not just about elite sports but about grassroots sports and the development of our young people into the future.

We need to see all of the services that Queensland should have as a true legacy. We cannot have any more of this cover-up. We hear the government talk about—what are they calling it?—the Big Build. It is the big con because unless they stop the cover-up there is no big build. It is a big cover-up. That is why I strongly support the motion as moved by my colleague the member for Kawana and our deputy opposition leader. We want accountability and we want an Olympics legacy that serves all of Queensland. We do not want any more big con of this government.

(Time expired)

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Member, you indicated you were going to table something. Do you have it?

Ms SIMPSON: Yes, I have it.

Tabled paper: Excerpt, dated 2 June 2023, from videoconference recording of contribution by the Coordinator General and the Director-General of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning, Mr Mike Kaiser, to the Sunshine Coast Infrastructure Summit [861](#).