



Speech By  
**Fiona Simpson**

**MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE**

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Record of Proceedings, 29 November 2023

**MOTION**

**Sunshine Coast**



**Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (5.03 pm): I move—

That this House notes:

- (a) crime rates on the Sunshine Coast in the last year have increased, including a 29 per cent increase in the unlawful use of motor vehicles, a 27 per cent increase in other thefts and a 19 per cent increase in unlawful entry;
- (b) rents have increased on the Sunshine Coast by 62 per cent;
- (c) the Palaszczuk Labor government's secrecy around the site of a future desalination plant;
- (d) the decision by the federal Labor government to cut funding for the Mooloolah River Interchange;
- (e) the decision by the federal Labor government to delay funding for upgrades to Bribie Island Road;
- (f) the inaction by the Palaszczuk Labor government in delivering the Sunshine Coast heavy rail from Beerwah to Caloundra to Kawana to Maroochydore; and
- (g) the government's failure to protect the Pumicestone Passage.

and calls on the members for Caloundra, Nicklin and Pumicestone to explain to the people of their electorates why the Labor government has failed to ease the cost-of-living, health, housing, infrastructure and crime crises facing Queenslanders.

At a time of chaos and crisis with the cost of living, health, housing, infrastructure and crime, this Labor government's priorities are wrong and they are making things worse. This Labor government boasts about growth, but growth without timely infrastructure and services is causing hardship and pain that has seen record numbers of people living in tents, unable to pay their rent, or facing home invasions and car theft, congested roads and ambulance ramping at their local hospitals—all due to this government's wrong priorities and a failure to plan and deliver. All crises have a lead time. After nearly nine years of government, this Labor Premier and her cabinet cannot try and blame everything on COVID or the Ukraine war anymore. It just does not wash.

The chaos and crisis has happened under this Labor government's watch with unaccountable ministers—such as the Minister for Transport, Minister Bailey, who has blown billions of dollars—with no consequences for their jobs and who laugh it off as if it is not important to Queenslanders. Well, try telling that to someone whose rent has gone up 62 per cent in the last few years on the Sunshine Coast since this government took office. Try telling them that blowing budgets does not matter when ordinary Queenslanders and Sunshine Coast residents are paying through the nose and now too many are living in tents and are in housing distress. The hikes in rent due to a housing supply shortage and disastrously low rental vacancies of less than one per cent are due to a lack of housing supply and a government that simply did not pay attention and dropped the ball—multiple failures that are now causing great hardship. There are many areas of failure and hardship that we see as a result of this government. Minister Bailey has not been held to account by the Premier—he is untouchable—yet this is a Premier who is out of touch. If she cannot hold her cabinet to account to deliver the services and infrastructure needed, then how on earth can she solve the problems that we are seeing?

Try telling people on the Sunshine Coast who have suffered injury or lost loved ones at the black spot on the Mooloolah River Interchange and the Sunshine Motorway-Nicklin Way interchange where the upgrade is now on the chopping block due to Labor cuts. Try telling someone in the Sunshine Coast hinterland that these things do not matter when their house is invaded, who are worrying about whether their children will be safe to sleep in their own beds at night, who have lost more than just their work vehicle; they have lost their peace and ability to feel safe in their own homes.

Try telling people that the way that this government has mismanaged infrastructure does not really matter when people want to see true legacy projects from the Olympics such as rail to Maroochydore CBD at the heart of the Sunshine Coast with passenger rail connected to the South-East Queensland transport network and Brisbane, but we have only heard more delays and excuses from this government that has not got on board, yet it was silent when there were cuts looming with the freeze with its federal colleagues. Now the cuts have happened, it has failed to go in to fight in a timely way. It has let them down. The chaos and crisis has happened on its watch.

We also see people stuck in traffic, facing injury at black spots and a government that has failed to invest in a timely way to address these issues, yet when it comes to the Gabba knock-down and rebuild there has been a huge cost blowout from a \$1 billion build to a \$2.7 billion build and still we do not know what the upper limit is. This government will not be held to account. Where are the members for Nicklin, Caloundra and Pumicestone when there has been these Labor cuts to critical infrastructure on the Sunshine Coast? Like their colleagues in the ministry, they have been silent because they have the wrong priorities. They are not fighting for Queensland and they are not listening to the people. Queensland deserves a brighter future with the right priorities and the LNP is committed to making our communities safer, having easier access to health services, saving people pain for Labor's failures, securing our housing foundations and working harder for Queenslanders. Show Labor the door in 2024.