




Speech By
Jarrod Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Record of Proceedings, 30 March 2023

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Sunshine Coast, Transport Infrastructure

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): Sunshine Coast residents will have heard for many years about the CAMCOS corridor. We know it as the Sunshine Coast heavy passenger rail, joining rail infrastructure from Beerwah to Caloundra, to Kawana, to Maroochydore. The CAMCOS corridor was first parroted by Labor governments in 1999. Since then we have had plan after plan, business case after business case, study after study. Guess what the Palaszczuk Labor government are doing now: another business case. From 1999 to 2023—24 years later, the state Labor government are doing another business case, like they have to be told how important heavy passenger rail is for the Sunshine Coast community! For goodness sake, the time for planning and looking into the Sunshine Coast heavy passenger rail is finished; the time for action is now. The time to build the rail is now. The time to dig with the shovel is now. They absolutely must get on with delivering the Sunshine Coast heavy passenger rail.

Sunshine Coast community residents have waited too long for this heavy passenger rail. Now the rumours are circulating that the state Labor government, through this business case, is only looking at extending the line from Beerwah and finishing it at Caloundra. If that is the case, it is disgraceful. It is not good enough for the residents of Kawana and Maroochydore to miss out on the Sunshine Coast heavy passenger rail.

The other rumour circulating is that the state government will deliver the heavy passenger rail to Caloundra and then there will be the light rail being proposed by the Sunshine Coast council. This means that a tram up Nicklin Way on our coastline communities will pick people up from Caloundra to Maroochydore. That is not acceptable. The Sunshine Coast community does not support the light rail down Nicklin Way and on our coastal communities. It will wreck the environment and it will wreck livability on the Sunshine Coast.

I see the Minister for the Environment smirking at me about the environment. We have one of the largest turtle nesting colonies in the world along my beaches in Buddina and Kawana. Lights from road and rail traffic have an impact on turtle nesting. The light rail proposed by the Sunshine Coast Council will have a detrimental impact not only on livability but also on the environment, particularly the turtle nesting that we see across Kawana Beach, and on the community.

I call on the Labor state government to stop the planning of the Sunshine Coast heavy passenger rail and deliver it. It is about time the rail is delivered. If the Premier wants legacy projects for her Olympics in 2032 then I say: put the Sunshine Coast heavy passenger rail in the mix, because the Sunshine Coast community have missed out from the Labor Party for too long.