




Speech By
Jason Hunt

MEMBER FOR CALOUNDRA

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Direct Sunshine Coast Rail Line

 **Mr HUNT** (Caloundra—ALP) (2.10 pm): What is the difference between the Deputy Premier, the Minister for Transport and Main Roads and every LNP member on the Sunshine Coast? It is about \$1.4 billion. Direct Sunshine Coast Rail Line funding is now confirmed and reserved for construction with an additional \$160 million available for planning and early works. I thank not only the Deputy Premier but also federal infrastructure minister Catherine King with whom I was admittedly somewhat grumpy in recent times. I also single out acting mayor of the Sunshine Coast, Rick Baberowski, for his efforts in advocating for the Sunshine Coast. Together with myself and the member for Nicklin, the Deputy Premier has prioritised Queensland and especially the Sunshine Coast in a way that the LNP never has.

Compare the pair: our federal government has put millions of dollars into a business case, along with our state government, that the federal member for Fairfax has recognised as the necessary next step. What stands out the most is that the business case costings, and now the prioritisation of the federal funding, has been initiated and actioned by Labor governments at every level. For the better part of 40 years, the Sunshine Coast has had wall-to-wall LNP representation at state and federal level while this project sat and gathered dust. The Sunshine Coast federal MPs sat idle for almost a decade under the previous government and did precisely nothing. Then at five minutes to midnight during the last election, they talked about having money in the budget for rail. The problem was they did not actually pass a budget. It is very tricky to have money in a budget that does not exist.

The comedy value does not end there. They also did not learn their lines correctly because one said that the costings were based on North Coast Connect and the other said that costings were based on Kuraby to Beenleigh. They very clearly had no clue what they were talking about with passenger rail. However, they at least recognised that a business case is needed. The LNP members in this chamber reckon that 38 kilometres of railroad is a bit like building Lego. They do not have to plan, other than the member for Maroochydore's failed commitment to link Caloundra and Maroochydore, but not to the actual rail network. Then in their last term, they did absolutely nothing. If their six dodgy corflutes cost them, say, \$100, that means that Labor has committed roughly \$1,300,999,900 more to the Sunshine Coast passenger rail than the LNP over four decades. It was up to this government—this Premier, the member for Nicklin and myself—to show the terminally lazy LNP members on the Sunshine Coast what standing up for the Sunshine Coast actually looks like.