




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

Record of Proceedings, 20 April 2023

TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (3.06 pm): I endorse the comments made by the member for Kurwongbah and thank the committee for its work looking into this very important project which has quite an infamous history. This was on the hit list of cuts by the previous Newman government. We saw the savage cuts in 2012-13 when a lot of necessary transport infrastructure for a growing population was cut by the previous Newman-Crisafulli government. This is one of the most infamous that was cut. It was this government that promised to bring back the Summers Road Interchange project to ensure that the growing suburbs out that way could get greater capacity across the Centenary Highway. It is a notorious local choke point. It should have been proceeded with years ago. It was first proposed and funded by the Bligh government and then defunded by the Newman government as part of a suite of cuts right across the state where we saw everything come to a standstill. We saw economic growth drop to as low as 0.7 per cent—a zero in front of it—under the Newman-Crisafulli government.

Mr NICHOLLS: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I understand there has been a ruling by the Speaker in relation to the reference being made to former governments and the name that is being used and there has been a specific ruling against doing so.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): I will seek some advice. I will ask you to continue. We will have to review the tape to see whether or not there was any reference made to the former government.

Mr BAILEY: I am happy to refer to the previous government as the Newman government. That is fine. The member for Clayfield is very sensitive. He was the Treasurer under the Newman government responsible for the cuts and does not want me talking about the previous government. It is almost like he is ashamed of their record.

Mr NICHOLLS: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence and ask the member to withdraw.

Mr BAILEY: I withdraw. Very sensitive, the member for Clayfield. Strong Choices.

Mr NICHOLLS: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I can do this all day. I am sure you know what the objection is. I take personal offence and I ask the member to withdraw.

Mr BAILEY: I withdraw. There are two words you can never say in this place when it comes to those opposite and those two words are 'strong choices'. They never like it. They never want to go back there. It was the thing that did them in. We have here a worthy project that was done properly. We improved the design to ensure that there was great separation of the active transport from the motorway so that everybody benefited. When we do transport infrastructure we need to do it properly, we need to do it multimodal. We need to be thinking in the 21st century.

I thank the committee and the member for Kurwongbah for their interest in this matter. I thank, in particular, the member for Mount Ommaney who has been a fierce advocate for Sumners Road as well as the Centenary Bridge duplication where we saw heavy works start this morning. Milton Dick, the federal member for Oxley and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, was there as well. The Sumners Road Interchange is a very important project. It was funded by this government because we believe in infrastructure for a booming population. We do not believe in cuts. We do not believe in slashing. We do not believe in pruning, as the member for Chatsworth said. Let us be very clear about the difference between pruning and cutting. Pruning is when you have a pair secateurs and a checked apron and you take off little bits of branch. When landscaping, you change something into certain shapes. You make it very neat.

Mr NICHOLLS: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Gardening has no relevance whatsoever to a committee report into Sumners Road. I ask that the minister be brought back, under relevance, to the committee report, which is the report into Sumners Road, and nothing else.

Mr BAILEY: Madam Deputy Speaker, to the point of order: this project was cut and I am speaking specifically about what a cut is. I am explaining that for the benefit of members. The difference is this project was cut—

Mr NICHOLLS: Madam Deputy Speaker, the point of order should not be in relation to argument, which is what the minister has just done, with references. My point of order went directly to relevance. I ask you to rule on it.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will seek some advice from the Clerk. Member, I ask you to stick to the debate on the committee's report.

Mr BAILEY: Certainly, Madam Deputy Speaker. This project was cut; it was not pruned. A pruning is taking a small amount off something, whether it is a project or a plant in the garden. Pruning means taking a small amount. When you cut something, you cut something totally. This project was cut by the previous government. That is a matter of fact and record. It was not pruned. What the member for Chatsworth means is that they actually cut it off at the trunk; at the base. They do not prune it. There is a big difference in that.

We will continue to point out the incompetence of those opposite who cut this project. They had the largest majority in political history in this country and messed it up in one term. The member for Clayfield was the treasurer. How embarrassing! How humiliating would that be? The cutting of this project is a symbol of the incompetence of the previous government.

Mr Nicholls interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Clayfield, you will be warned. I have given you multiple warnings.

Mr BAILEY: This is a very important project. The constant interjections from the member for Clayfield are to try to cover up his incompetent record in cutting this project and I could not have planned it better.

Mr NICHOLLS: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Mr BAILEY: Another frivolous point of order from a very sensitive member.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock.

Mr NICHOLLS: I ask that the member withdraw. I take personal offence.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, do you withdraw?

Mr BAILEY: I withdraw. The record of the Newman government, of which the member for Clayfield was treasurer, is a matter of public record.

Mr NICHOLLS: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Again I take personal offence and I ask the member to withdraw.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, do you withdraw?

Mr BAILEY: I withdraw with joy.