




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

Record of Proceedings, 11 May 2023

MOTION

Far North Queensland, Service Delivery

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (4.27 pm): I rise to speak in support of the amendment and to oppose the motion. One can only characterise the opposition contribution to the debate as being akin to the year 9 drama classes I used to teach: juvenile, silly, puerile, without content, without substance and without integrity. Let's look at the record of our members representing this region compared to the Newman government.

What has been delivered by the member for Barron River? There is the Smithfield Bypass; the Yorkeys Knob boat ramp, worth \$22 million; the Kuranda ITS, which will open midyear; and upgrades to the Cairns Western Arterial Road. We are also working with the fishing industry. This represents the very strong record of the member for Barron River.

What has been delivered by the member for Cook? The local fares scheme was brought back after it was cut by the LNP and the former member for Cook. We see the freight subsidy committed to and we see marine infrastructure commitments of \$80 million. Also, the whole cabinet was brought to the Torres Strait. The Peninsula Developmental Road stage 2 was delivered because she and I advocated for it.

In terms of the upgrades at Lockhart River, there is an air terminal, the performance ground and the social club. We have been working with the council and Mayor Butcher to increase local capacity along with new local roads and bridges. The member for Cairns will see upgrades to the Cairns ring-road coming soon, upgrades to the Western Arterial Road, Bruce Highway upgrades from Kate Street to Aumuller Street, upgrades to the Cairns shipping port development with \$127 million to let larger ships into Cairns so there is more tourism here and the massive commitments to the Cairns Marine Precinct, including the \$39 million committed only this week. The member for Mulgrave has seen the Yarrabah Jetty open—and it is magnificent—which will open up opportunities for that community as well as a massive half-billion dollar upgrade to the Bruce Highway from Edmonton to Gordonvale supported and delivered because of his hard work.

Let us take that record of substantial reform and local achievements and compare it to the oncers from the LNP who did not survive one term because they let their electorates down. They cut the airfare subsidies to the Torres Strait. The \$12 million that was to upgrade the Mareeba Airport was cut by the Newman government. The former member for Cairns cut funding for the operating theatre at the hospital. We saw staff sacked. Funding for the Cairns bus station was cut. The former member for Cairns Gavin King did do one thing: he wrote a wonderful book about Newman. My favourite quote is from the now Leader of the Opposition and former member for Mundingburra, who said of Campbell Newman—

In that moment, that one second in time—

the melodrama—

I realised I was dealing with someone special.

...

I'll remember that moment until the day I die.

They were the words of the Leader of the Opposition fawning over Campbell Newman, who cut staff—cut, sack and sell, \$100 million to try and sell off our assets. The Leader of the Opposition was in the thick of it. He was in the thick of it and we know that if he got another chance he would be doing exactly the same thing a second time. We would see thousands of staff sacked. We would see our assets being put on the line. Only a month ago the cat was let out of the bag by the member for Chatsworth who said that they had already made decisions to cut billions of dollars in funding. This was not eight years ago with the Newman government; this was only a month ago. He thought he would get away with it because rather than call it a 'cut' he was going to 'prune' it. He was going to 'prune' it, wasn't he? Picture him with little secateurs, making it sound very minor and very little, but we know leopards do not change their spots. We know the Leader of the Opposition will cut, sack and sell if he got the chance, regardless of whatever he says in opposition.

The four local members in Cairns will back in Queenslanders. They will not sell assets. They will back our health staff. They will always stand up for their communities, and that is why none of them are oncers; they are there for multiple terms because they fight for their local electorates, and they always will. This is a puerile motion that deserves to be voted down.

(Time expired)