




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

Record of Proceedings, 23 May 2023

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Kenmore, Road Infrastructure; Gold Coast Light Rail

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services) (2.20 pm): A lecture from the member for Mudgeeraba, who lasted in the ministry for less than a year, about what a minister should be? Spare us all. ‘The same old faces’? Look at the members opposite—a dozen former Newman government ministers who have not changed in 8½ years. They are still relying on the Newman government era, including the leader. Let’s not hear nonsense and hypocrisy from those opposite.

Telling the truth is important when communicating with communities about changes, whatever the level of government. Residents in Queensland and Brisbane deserve that respect. The deliberate misleading of residents by a leader in power is simply disgraceful. When it is done using public funds raised via the rates of hardworking residents in Brisbane for obvious political gain, it is a sure sign that a politician is arrogant, has the wrong priorities and has been in power for too long. Such is the case with the Lord Mayor of Brisbane, Adrian Schrinner, and his personally addressed, direct mail letters on lord mayoral letterhead, funded by Brisbane City Council rates and distributed to the residents of Kenmore and potentially many more suburbs.

The consultation on a proposal to replace the Kenmore roundabout with traffic lights saw 94 per cent of people opposed to the idea. As good governments do, the state government repurposed the \$12.5 million in state funding to keep it in that local community by investing it to benefit Moggill Road users via a separated cycleway alongside the two lanes of general traffic in both directions to connect to the popular Centenary Highway Bikeway. This will physically separate cyclists from the general traffic lanes to benefit all road users and increase safety for bike riders including local kids and students in the area. However, despite recently claiming to now be a new-found supporter of active transport, Lord Mayor Schrinner has taken the extraordinary step of using ratepayer funds to write to Kenmore Hills residents in a highly misleading way. His letter is factually wrong, indefensible and highly political. It alleges that I, as the transport minister, had redirected funding to a ‘bike-only solution on Moggill Road’—clearly insinuating that Moggill Road would be used only by bike riders and not by general vehicles. Clearly, this is not accurate and is designed to deliberately mislead the people of the western suburbs about a commitment made by this government to improve active transport in the western suburbs. The letter has a QR code which is clearly designed to harvest people’s data for future political use, with the potential for more ratepayer resources and funds.

Lord Mayor Schrinner should apologise for misleading Kenmore Hills residents and immediately refund the funds incurred by the BCC for this highly political misrepresentation of facts. He should come clean and tell us which suburbs received these dodgy letters before refunding their full cost to the council. Misusing public funds for clearly party political purposes is simply wrong. It is not to be tolerated in state parliament and it should not be tolerated in local government. It seems that, after being in power for nearly 20 years, Lord Mayor Schrinner’s administration thinks ratepayer funds are its own party

political slush fund for playing political games in the western suburbs. I condemn it and I call it out. If he has any decency, he will reverse this dishonest behaviour and refund those ratepayer funds to the Brisbane City Council.

While I am on my feet and I have one minute to speak, I will address a couple of things in relation to an anti light rail rally that was led by the LNP member for Burleigh and the federal member for McPherson, Karen Andrews. At this meeting, at no stage did the member for Burleigh or the federal member for McPherson, Karen Andrews, outline their own financial interests on the light rail route, or the 'proposed light rail route' as the member for Burleigh puts it. The member for Burleigh has a brewery on the route that he proposes and he has not told the people of that financial interest. He owns property also on the actual proposed—

Mr HART: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I find the clown's speech to be personally offensive and I ask him to withdraw.

Mr BAILEY: Madam Deputy Speaker, within the point of order there was a term used that was very unparliamentary and I suggest that he should be called to order.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): I will take some advice. Minister, your comments were offensive and I ask you to withdraw.

Mr BAILEY: I withdraw. It is a fact and a matter of public record that the member for Burleigh has financial interests, and he did not disclose them to the public meeting.

Ms PEASE: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. During the point of order, the member for Burleigh made some terribly defamatory comments. He has not been asked to withdraw that; nor has he been counselled on that matter. He used unparliamentary language that everyone heard.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Burleigh, I ask you to withdraw the unparliamentary language used.

Mr HART: I withdraw.

Mr BAILEY: The mayor and I gave a commitment to two lanes of traffic—

Opposition members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members to my left! Order!

Mr BAILEY:—Palm Beach that was not outlined to the meeting. There was a lot of misleading information at the meeting, so it is no wonder people are feeling aggrieved by the fact that—

(Time expired)