



Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

Record of Proceedings, 23 August 2023


APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation Bill

Transport and Resources Committee, Report

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services) (11.47 am): I rise to wholeheartedly support the transport committee's report in terms of the estimates. I note the very wise chairing of the member for Kurwongbah, as acknowledged, and I acknowledge the opposition shadow's endorsement of how fair and reasonable he is in the chair.

On the day we saw outrageous behaviour from the member for Kawana and the member for Maroochydore, both deliberately ignoring standing orders but, more importantly, taking over the job of the shadow minister for transport and main roads. I can guarantee I will be here in my role a lot longer than he will be in his because he got sacked. He was not trusted to lead the attack from the opposition. It was humiliating.

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

Mr Bailey: Come in, spinner!

Mr MINNIKIN: I take personal offence at that last comment because it is factually incorrect. I ask that it be withdrawn.

Mr BAILEY: I withdraw. I am very interested in the estimates transcript as well because in the estimates transcript I outlined very clearly the NGR debacle under the watch of the member for Chatsworth. He was the assistant minister for public transport in the Newman government. He was there; he voted for it. I outlined how much that cost the taxpayer: \$335 million. We have fixed 49 of them. We can only do eight at a time to keep the system rolling.

The member was so offended that he dumped his leader and his deputy leader into it by denying any role as he was not in cabinet but was just the assistant minister for public transport. He said, 'No, ordering those trains that were not disability compliant from overseas was nothing do with me.' To cap it off, it was not just him; it was also the member for Maroochydore. They were basically throwing all the former Newman government ministers to the wolves by saying, 'No, we weren't part of that debacle, that humiliation, that embarrassment.' These guys do not even rehearse. It was a very embarrassing effort by the shadow minister who clearly does not have the confidence of his own side in his ability to lead in the portfolio area.

Let us speak about what is in the budget. There is a record \$32 billion QTRIP investment, which is nearly double the last budget of the LNP when those opposite were in government for only one term. There is a whole list of strong investments across this state, in both regional Queensland and South-East Queensland, into things that were ignored and not dealt with by those opposite. When in power they did not spend a single new dollar on the M1 and we are investing billions of dollars in upgrades on the southern Gold Coast and the interchanges at Springwood. The member for Springwood, who is sitting next to me, knows how much we are investing in the M1. On the Bruce Highway we have done 459 upgrades versus—if I am generous and count the two planning studies—four from those opposite. That is a cricket score, as I said in the estimates hearing and I say again. The Gold Coast Light Rail would not happen under any government other than our government. We have the Gympie bypass and the Sunshine Coast rail duplication and we are doing the hard yards for the Sunshine Coast direct line.

When it comes to a comprehensive look at the transport portfolio, let us see what topics were not covered by the opposition. These topics were not even mentioned in four hours of estimates hearings: the M1, Far North Queensland, taxis, Rockhampton, the Torres Strait, Central Queensland, North Queensland, Far North Queensland, regional roads, ports—they never saw a port they did not want to sell off—Mackay, Bundaberg, Moreton Bay or road maintenance. I was disappointed not to see road maintenance come up. We love it when the member raises road maintenance because we are spending so much more on it than they did. It is a little favourite of the member for Chatsworth and I was very disappointed not to see it there. Also not mentioned were maritime, active transport, customer service centres, Ipswich and the Redlands to name a few. That is what they did not cover in four hours and yet the member for Chatsworth comes in here and talks about body language. That shows the depth of the contribution of the honourable member to this place.

We are still fixing the NGR debacle that the member for Chatsworth and the member for Maroochydore voted for. They were not in cabinet but they endorsed it and they voted for it. They can try to crab walk away all they want. They can say, 'It wasn't our fault. It was the member for Broadwater, the member for Everton and the member for Kawana. It was all the people in the Newman government ministry.' It was their fault and nothing to do with the member for Chatsworth! You get either record investment in infrastructure from the Palaszczuk Labor government or you get billions in cuts, announced by the member for Chatsworth only months ago. He told us in his own press conference that they are going to cut billions. Those were their own words and I take them at their word. They have not changed. They are still cutters and we are builders.