




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

Record of Proceedings, 26 October 2023

TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services) (3.08 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution on the committee report. The reality is that there has never been a government in this state that has had greater requirements for local procurement than the Palaszczuk Labor government. All we get from those opposite, instead of praise and backing in good policy and backing small, medium and large businesses in this state, is whingeing and whining from the member from—where is he from?—Buderim. It is hard to remember sometimes given how mediocre his contributions are.

Anyone who follows government announcements knows just how high the level of local procurement is. Cross River Rail is regularly in the high 80 or low 90 per cent of businesses who are supplying to our projects—our record infrastructure program. We are spending double the amount on infrastructure than the previous LNP government. They are benefiting from us—

Mr Mickelberg: You get less.

Mr BAILEY: That is a bizarre interjection from the member for Buderim, who says that we are spending less. This is our \$32 billion infrastructure program—

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Member for Buderim, order.

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Buderim—

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Buderim, you are now warned under the standing orders.

Mr BAILEY: This is our \$32 billion infrastructure program—double their last one—and we get silly interjections like that from the member for Buderim, who obviously is not across his brief. We are seeing record low levels of unemployment in this state because of our infrastructure program and because of our very strong local procurement policies which have often been criticised by those opposite and now they are saying that we are not doing enough. It is just the same old whingeing and whining. We saw the 44-page pamphlet that said nothing, no commitments to projects, no commitments to policies—absolutely nothing. You would think a year out they would actually have a policy, but there was not a policy. There was no policy in there on procurement, that is for sure. I do not recall seeing the word 'procurement'.

Mr Millar interjected.

Mr BAILEY: The member for Gregory has had the rug taken out from under him in his own seat and he is obviously a bit cantankerous, but I digress. You can bet one thing: he has a safe seat. It will not be a woman that the LNP puts into that seat, that is for sure, because the LNP does not give safe seats to women. It keeps them for the boys' club over there.

Opposition members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members to my left, order!

Mr BAILEY: It obviously landed, didn't it? We have a very strong record on procurement. Businesses know that. Right across the state businesses are doing our 459 Bruce Highway upgrades, businesses are supplying to the Cross River Rail and businesses are supplying to the Coomera Connector, the second M1. I heard a contribution from the member for Coomera earlier. That was blocked when the member for Coomera was part of the Newman government but is being built under this government and all they can do is whinge and whine. There are a huge number of local suppliers going into that project as well as all of the M1 upgrades that we are doing. Then there are the interchange upgrades up on the Bruce Highway. I know the member for Kurwongbah is a very strong supporter of upgrades to our road and rail system and it is local companies providing the bulk of that because we require local procurement.

We are seeing local procurement at levels never seen before under any other government and one would think that if the opposition had any integrity it would be backing it in saying that it is good policy and it supports it, yet we get the same old whingeing and whining. Those opposite have had three years to come up with a policy, three years to come up with a project that they support, yet we get 44 pages of waffle with pages that virtually have no words on them. They have really big italics to take up a bit of space but no actual content in it. This is an opposition that has spent three years whingeing and whining. It has done nothing in terms of policy development and nothing in terms of projects. We have an opposition leader whose wheels are spinning. You can see that. They know it on the other side because all they have is whingeing and whining. They do not have a vision. They do not have the policy development. It is whatever today's lines are. They have principles but then walk away from them, so you cannot trust anything they say.