




Speech By
Michael Hart

MEMBER FOR BURLEIGH

Record of Proceedings, 24 May 2023

ADJOURNMENT

Burleigh, Light Rail Forum

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (7.12 pm): Last Thursday night in Palm Beach, four local representatives came together and held a forum—

Mr Bailey: No, you didn't.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Order!

Mr HART: There were 635 people in attendance at the forum. How do we know that? Because we counted the people there. The next morning we heard a train wreck interview on ABC local radio by the Minister for Transport and read a tweet put out by the minister, who was described as 'foolish' by the Crime and Corruption Commission. He was in full flight on that day when he denied that there were 635 people there and said that there were only a couple of hundred. We had registrations from 392 groups on the night. There were 635 people present. If the minister had bothered to attend, he would have seen that for himself.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 1 March 2023, to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Hon. Mark Bailey, inviting him to attend a public meeting on 18 May 2023 to discuss the extension of the light rail through Palm Beach to beyond Coolangatta [705](#).

In that interview the minister said that it was an LNP event. There were a couple of LNP representatives there, but there was also the local councillor, who has never been in a political party in her life. We all spoke for two minutes. We actually hired a professional mediator to run the event. Despite what the minister described, there was no shouting down of people who were supportive. If the minister had been there, he would have understood that. There were a number of motions moved on the night and we have provided those to both the minister and the Premier. I have about 200 letters from the people who attended on the night. I will deliver them to the minister and the Premier. What do those letters ask for? All they ask is for the minister to come to the southern Gold Coast. I table the minister's tweet where he says that the LNP called an anti-light rail meeting forum, did not consult him on the date and then blamed him for not attending.

Tabled paper: Extract, undated, from the Twitter account of the Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Minister for Digital Services, Hon. Mark Bailey, in relation to a public light rail meeting [706](#).

A few minutes later I tweeted a letter I sent to the minister 11 weeks before the event, giving the minister the date. Of course, the minister could not even bother to reply to that. Foolish—that is what this minister is. The minister can pick his own date. If the minister wants to come down and listen to what the people of my electorate have to say about light rail, I or somebody else will organise a meeting. The Premier says that people do not need to hire a Labor aligned consultant to have a meeting with her. I would like to know exactly what you have to do to get a meeting with the minister, because the only people who can get a meeting with the minister are Labor aligned groups. Minister, people in my area want you to come down there—

(Time expired)