



Speech By  
**Ray Stevens**


**MEMBER FOR MERMAID BEACH**

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Record of Proceedings, 16 March 2023

## ADJOURNMENT

### Coomera Connector

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (5.56 pm): Again I rise in the House to highlight the disdain that the recalcitrant Labor government has for the Gold Coast and the unfathomable incompetence they have displayed in delaying further the alternative route to the M1, nominally called the Coomera Connector, by not properly doing a koala management plan to enable the project to be started sooner rather than later. Anyone who uses the M1 regularly would know that it is past its effective use-by date and an alternative route between Brisbane and the Gold Coast is required yesterday.

The alternative route has been canvassed for years. To hear reports that this government has failed to put in place appropriate protections for Queensland's favourite cute and cuddly state emblem, the koala, is nothing short of deliberate sabotage by delay and obfuscation of a project that is vital for the Gold Coast's economy and vital for the elimination of excessive fuel emissions caused by vehicles caught for hours in traffic jams on the chock-a-block M1. It smells of political interference to avoid the financial burden of implementing a desperately needed piece of Queensland infrastructure from a government that has maxed out its credit card and is hiding from a ratings agency downgrade that would further embarrass the Palaszczuk Labor government and replicate the infamous financial downgrade that the Bligh Labor government achieved before being cast from government in a record landslide in 2012.

It is a total embarrassment that the Palaszczuk government keeps crowing about the 2032 Olympic Games and the success that it will be, given the state of the most critical piece of infrastructure, the highway between Brisbane and the Gold Coast, the future home of the athletes village, and has failed to turn a sod on a viable alternative for traffic to the already fully congested M1 highway. To hear that the government has failed to properly protect, through appropriate planning, our much loved and environmentally threatened koala makes one question this government's commitment to build that important Brisbane-Gold Coast infrastructure.

Procrastination is the thief of time. Unless this government puts a time frame on the provision of the alternative to the M1 and commits to meeting that time frame, the project will stay on the never-never list until an LNP government is elected to fix the problem. Nothing has changed in the Labor Party's attitude to the Gold Coast since the Beattie Labor government delayed the Coolangatta bypass because of their protection racket for the then Labor member for Currumbin, Merri Rose. Bring on October 2024 to give Queenslanders the opportunity to get Queensland back on track. We need the M1 fixed straightaway and we need the government to start committing to put their hands in their pocket to get the road built.