




Speech By
Steve Minnikin

MEMBER FOR CHATSWORTH

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Minister for Transport and Main Roads

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (2.37 pm): Very well done to the previous speaker. After growing up in the early seventies, I can recall a famous UK comedy series called *On the Buses*. It had Reg Varney starring in it as a bus driver and then there was Blakey—a rather tall, lanky character—who was the bus depot inspector. Yesterday when I sat here listening to the member for Miller yet again get up with another classic blunder, I wondered if he might have thought about how he might sneak this one through. However, it is a bit difficult when he is doing it as a ministerial statement and he gets up and talks about his—

Mr BAILEY: Mr Deputy Speaker Martin, I rise to a point of order. I find the analogy used by the member personally offensive and I ask that he withdraw.

Mr MINNIKIN: I withdraw. The fact of the matter remains though that it was probably more a tragedy than a comedy, because there is a real price to be paid when we on this side of the chamber absolutely know—moreover, it is pretty much known no matter where you go now—about the member for Miller, the transport and main roads minister, and the moniker that is associated with everything he touches, and that is budget blowouts.

For completeness, I will remind the House of a couple of them. Before I get to Cross River Rail there are the blowouts of \$2.4 billion for train manufacturing, \$600 million for the Coomera Connector and half a billion dollars for Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 3A. Imagine being a fly on the wall between the left and the right. You have the member for Miller and the member for Woodridge. The problem when you are continually not on top of your game is that there will come a point when it comes back to bite you.

What of the 200 green buses? Yesterday the minister had the hide to say, 'Congratulations! There will be a green revolution with bus transport.' There is only one problem: of the 200 buses, 150 will be dirty diesels. Why is that? It is because we have a situation whereby the Brisbane City Council, despite their best efforts to work with the member for Miller—as the member for Miller knows—have made a commitment to go on this journey. However, due to the incompetence—there is no other word for it—of the way that this program has been managed—

Mr BAILEY: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Again I find his use of that particular word personally offensive and I ask that he withdraw.

Mrs GERBER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The minister was not referenced in that comment. He said he finds it offensive but it was the way the program has been run.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): Thank you, member. I think it was reasonably clear that it was referring to the member. Member for Chatsworth, will you withdraw?

Mr MINNIKIN: I withdraw and will move along. We need to look at something that is pretty damning here, which is the minister's own departmental brief dated May 2023. The industry engagement findings for the Zero Emission Bus Program state that on one of the manufacturing key terms—this is about the whole program—the 'program timeline was seen as overly ambitious, and may not support the objective of establishing sustainable local manufacturing.' We support Queensland manufacturing but we do not support the incompetence of this minister who is costing this economy billions.