




Speech By
Steve Minnikin

MEMBER FOR CHATSWORTH

Record of Proceedings, 16 November 2023

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Performance

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (2.21 pm): It is that time of the proceedings when we play the old cost blowout calculator game with the incompetent transport and main roads minister, the member for Miller.

Mr BAILEY: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I find the comment personally offensive and I ask that it be withdrawn.

Mr MINNIKIN: I withdraw. For those playing along at home, let's go for it with the first round—Gold Coast Light Rail stage 3A. The original budget for this was \$709 million. That has now blown out to \$1.219 billion. That is half a billion dollars there. That is No. 1.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr MINNIKIN: Yes, thank you, ding-a-ling-a-ling. We go to the Coomera Connector, which was a \$1½ billion project. That has now blown out to \$2.163 billion, so that is a \$633 million blowout. That is on the scorecard. We keep going, and the Northern Transitway was \$53 million but it has blown out to \$172 million. That is a nice even, kind of, \$119 million blowout under the watch of the Minister for Transport and Main Roads.

Then we go to the big one. He kind of tried to have fun during estimates, if it was not for the bravery of a very fine public servant who came clean and we got to the bottom of it. I am talking about the Queensland Train Manufacturing Program. That one there, as Queenslanders all know, was just a small, paltry blowout of \$2.4 billion! Unbelievable. Then we get to the new Gold Coast railway stations. He cannot even get railway stations built on time and on budget. That was \$120 million and is now up to half a billion dollars. That is a \$380 million cost blowout.

I have to advise the House of the latest and greatest bit of work from the member for Miller, the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. I refer to the latest project fiasco, the Logan and Gold Coast Faster Rail project. Some members are simply the gifts that keep on giving. This is something that I actually downloaded from the World Wide Web about an hour ago. It showed—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr MINNIKIN: I know; it is amazing. This was a \$2.6 billion project. It was to be co-funded, with \$1.3 billion from the federal government and \$1.3 billion from the Queensland government. We now know, from the train wreck of a media interview done about 50 minutes ago from the member for Miller, the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, that that one is going to blow out by \$2½ billion to \$5 billion. Absolute genius! Incompetent.