




Speech By
Ali King

MEMBER FOR PUMICESTONE

Record of Proceedings, 22 May 2024

MOTION

Transport Infrastructure

 **Ms KING** (Pumicestone—ALP) (5.55 pm): I rise to speak to the amended motion. There is no doubt whatsoever that the Gympie Road gridlock is a problem for anybody in the Moreton Bay area who commutes to work in Brisbane or who wants to visit family on the north side or head to Cherside to do some shopping. As the member for Bancroft said, Gympie Road is a crucial connector. That is why our Miles Labor government is putting our money where our mouth is with \$35 million that we have already committed to the Gympie Road bypass tunnel project.

Today we see the LNP mistruths start rolling out. They are claiming that they care about the north side. They are pretending that they will make the Gympie Road bypass tunnel a reality. However, when it comes to major transport projects across the north side, into Moreton Bay and all the way up to the Sunshine Coast, as ever the LNP are all talk and no action. This is especially so with the Sunshine Coast direct rail project. The opposition has spent 30 years talking it up and doing absolutely nothing. It was a Labor government that laid the groundwork, got on the phone to Albo and kicked off the planning. We spent \$14 million doing the business case. It was our Miles Labor government that secured \$5.5 billion in funding to kickstart the line from Beerwah to Caloundra.

Mr Hunt: Hear, hear!

Ms KING: I know that the member for Caloundra welcomes that project enormously. As they try desperately to win a few votes, the only porky that the LNP has left is pretending that they will build the line to Maroochydore by 2032 even though the business case and the engineering experts say it cannot be done and the LNP already have their \$6.5 billion black hole to contend with.

Here we go again with LNP porkies on the Gympie Road bypass tunnel. They are telling fibs to Queenslanders to win votes. They are talking a big game about infrastructure but giving absolutely no detail on how they will deliver or fund it. It is our Miles Labor government that is commissioning the feasibility study on the Gympie Road bypass tunnel. It is Labor that is doing the consultation to get community feedback on the project. It is only Labor that will ever actually build it, not the LNP whose track record is taking an axe to infrastructure. The LNP do not build; they only ever cut. We remember that it was the LNP that tried to kill off Cross River Rail even when they had federal funding for it. It is Labor that is delivering that key project. The LNP cut the Northern Transitway; Labor built it. The LNP cut planning for further stages of the northern busway and their list of infrastructure cuts just goes on and on.

The LNP will say anything for a vote. This week it took the ghost of Campbell Newman to call out their claims about how they can magically fix ambulance ramping. He said—

How will you do this?

Magic wand?

Mystic incantations?

Or will you implement the same measures we put in place in the period 2012 to 2015?

That came from the former premier, their strongman and the opposition leader's mentor—that very special person. He went on to say, '... Queenslanders have a right to know and you have spent nine years apologising.' The LNP have a lot to apologise for. I do not think they have ever said sorry to Queenslanders for their \$1.6 billion cuts to road and transport budgets. They have never apologised for gutting 700 workers from RoadTek or sacking 2,500 TMR workers or the total of 14,000 workers they kicked to the kerb. Queenslanders absolutely have a right to know how the LNP will build all the infrastructure that they have promised and still balance the budget.

Queenslanders have a right to know the details of the LNP's much vaunted debt reduction plan. Is it cuts to infrastructure? Is it sacking public servants? Is it cutting services that Queenslanders depend on? Queenslanders deserve to see behind the LNP's slick slogans and glossy brochures with no substance. It is all glamour shots—no delivery—but it takes a lot to put lipstick on these LNP porkers. No wonder the LNP leader is constantly on the run from the media here in the precinct. We heard all about him hotfooting it as fast as his little legs would carry him away from Tim Arvier yesterday. Who can forget the LNP leader standing up in his very first press conference as leader and walking back the LNP's commitment to build the next Bribie Island bridge?

Mr POWELL: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. There is a longstanding convention not to refer to the physical attributes of a member of parliament. I ask that the member for Pumicestone withdraw those statements.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): That is a fair point of order. Member, I ask you to withdraw.

Ms KING: I withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Bear in mind the longstanding convention about not referring to people's physical attributes either directly or via insinuation. Moving forward, I ask you to bear that in mind.

Ms KING: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. Who can forget the LNP leader standing up and walking back his commitment to build the next Bribie Island bridge in his very first press conference as leader? After he took over from Deb Frecklington, that LNP commitment to a new Bribie Island bridge was cut to the guts. At the end of the day, Queenslanders know that members of the LNP like to showboat about infrastructure, but their record speaks for itself. Only Labor builds; the LNP just cuts. Queenslanders know what to expect from another LNP government—the three big Cs: Crisafulli, cuts and chaos.