




Speech By
Andrew Powell

MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE

Record of Proceedings, 22 May 2024

MOTION

Transport Infrastructure

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (5.29 pm): I rise to support the motion moved by my good friend the member for Chatsworth. In starting my contribution I want to acknowledge the contribution from the member for Sandgate where we basically heard five minutes of his greatest hits as a cabinet minister. The only problem is that he forgot the greatest hit of all, and that was ‘rail fail’—the catastrophic failure of the transport system in Brisbane and South-East Queensland that ultimately led to him resigning/being sacked as a minister.

The Labor government’s go-slow on key congestion-busting infrastructure to the north of Brisbane is having dire consequences not only for the outer suburbs—and hopefully very soon after October they will be represented by our fine friends in the gallery: Fiona Hammond in Stafford; Amanda Cooper in Aspley; and Dean Clements in Pine Rivers—but also for constituents further out in the electorates of Glass House and Pumicestone where Ariana Doolan is doing a great job. In Morayfield, Kurwongbah, Bancroft and Murrumba, this is having dire consequences for mums and dads trying to get to work and trying to get home to their families. It is having dire consequences for small and family businesses trying to employ locals and pay their bills. It is having dire consequences for anyone wanting to buy a house, rent a house or get ahead in this housing crisis, but I will unpack that further in a moment.

A tunnel from Kedron to Carseldine is desperately needed. Contrary to the statements of the Premier, it was needed long before the recent huge increase in migration foisted on us by the Albanese federal government. That has just compounded the existing disaster that is congestion on the north side. We do not have an M1 or a Clem Jones Tunnel that can deposit you right in the middle of the CBD. We do not have a Centenary Highway or a Legacy Way that will do likewise. We have Gympie Road, Sandgate Road or one of the other car park rat runs we resort to using. I and my constituents and those of the northern suburbs and the broader Sunshine Coast are fed up. Sadly, those opposite have let politics override practicality. Instead of accepting the findings of the 2022 Brisbane City Council traffic study that recommended a tunnel along the Trouts Road corridor, then transport and main roads minister Bailey called it ‘feeble’ and ‘a farce’, only to spend three times more—\$35 million—tasking QIC with exploring a solution. So where is the outcome? It is needed today. In fact, it was needed yesterday. In fact, it was needed 10 years ago, and that is why this motion is calling that out.

I mentioned that a lack of infrastructure investment north of Brisbane is impacting on housing availability. Do not take my word for it; take the words of the Mayor of the City of Moreton Bay, Peter Flannery, who in a media release today said the following—

AV Jennings’ announcement last night to terminate their option for development at Waraba, due to expected costs not aligning with their forecasts, is a timely reminder for Government ...

Let me remind the House that that is Caboolture West: 30,000 homes, 70,000 people, a city the size of Mackay. He went on to say—

However, we will not meet State Government mandated housing targets if a pipeline of catalytic infrastructure is not prioritised now.

City of Moreton Bay has done the planning and we know what we need to manage impending growth. We have 12 growth fronts, but all of these are in underdeveloped areas.

The fact of the matter is land can't be turned into housing without infrastructure. Developers need certainty. They can't just sit on paddocks and wait for their day in the sun!

It's all well and good for the State to mandate growth targets for Councils but they need to support that growth.

That is why we have been calling on the State and Federal Governments to expedite funding for key infrastructure NOW.

He went on to say—

We really need the Bruce Highway Western Alternative ...

Sure do, but guess where that ends? At Bald Hills. Guess what that is going to do? Put more people onto Gympie Road trying to get into the city. Guess what is needed from there? A tunnel from Carseldine to Kedron. That is why the member for Chatsworth moved the motion that he did today. While I am on that, the members of my communities and those of stage 3 in and around Narangba need certainty on the Bruce Highway western alternative. They need answers, they need certainty and they need timelines. The mayor continued—

With Councils only receiving 3% of tax revenue—it is up to the State and Federal Governments to make a real contribution to infrastructure ...

We cannot sit here and wait for another 10 years. To ensure that we get a tunnel from Kedron to Carseldine, show Labor the door in '24.