



Speech By
Brent Mickelberg

MEMBER FOR BUDERIM

Record of Proceedings, 22 May 2024

MOTION

Transport Infrastructure

Mr MICKELBERG (Buderim—LNP) (5.39 pm): I thought 12 per cent might be a stretch to be honest, but after that I can see why the member for Stafford's branch was hunting him. He scraped through his preselection but he is not going to scrape through the next vote and he knows it. That is why he had the shakes. He knows Fiona Hammond is coming for him.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Through the chair. Pause the clock and resume your seat. Member, there is a longstanding convention in this chamber that we do not refer to other members' physical attributes. I would ask you to withdraw that statement and to not repeat similar matters in the future.

Mr MICKELBERG: I withdraw. He knows it; he knows through his words and his lack of action that he is cooked. He comes in here and talks a big game, but the people of Stafford know full well that the current member for Stafford does not have their interests at heart. How many times has the member for Stafford raised this issue in the parliament before today? Zero. It takes an LNP motion for the member for Stafford to get up and talk about the issues in his community and that says everything to the voters in the Stafford electorate.

Mr SULLIVAN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence. I will also be writing to Mr Speaker because that is absolutely misleading and I can show the *Hansard*.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Resume your seat. There is a process, as I have outlined already, regarding the misleading of the House. In relation to the other matter, I would ask that you withdraw.

Mr MICKELBERG: I withdraw. I rise to support the shadow minister's motion because Labor have given up on tackling the traffic gridlock afflicting North Brisbane. They have given up on the thousands of Queenslanders who make the daily commute from Moreton Bay and the Sunshine Coast down to Brisbane. They have given up on helping tradies get to work on time, they have given up on couriers trying to drop off parcels to eager online shoppers and they have given up on mums and dads getting home in time to say goodnight to their kids at the end of a long day working in the CBD. Queenslanders deserve better. Queenslanders on the Sunshine Coast, in Moreton Bay and in North Brisbane deserve better than this Labor government.

Honourable members have heard some of the impacts that a generation of Labor failures has had for residents across Brisbane. However, I want to focus on the impact on small and family businesses today and what a failure to plan and build means for my constituents on the Sunshine Coast. It is well acknowledged there is a missing link in Brisbane's motorway network, a missing link of a high-capacity north-south route alternative to the Gateway Motorway. I would be surprised if there was anyone in this place who has not experienced a vehicle accident on the Gateway Motorway causing traffic gridlock for anyone trying to travel north at the end of a long day. During the last sitting week I found myself backtracking through Brendale, Bray Park and Petrie following an Apple Maps route trying

to work around an accident on the Bruce Highway. It meant another 50 minutes added to my commute and it meant more traffic on local roads in the electorate of the member for Pine Rivers. No-one won—not commuters, not residents—and it is all down to a lack of planning and a lack of action from this Labor state government.

For those Sunshine Coast residents who do make the torturous journey up and back from Brisbane each day if—and it is a big if—they manage to make it down the Bruce without hitting traffic, they can take it as a given that they will hit traffic the moment they get to Boundary Road at North Lakes, again at the Pine Rivers Bridge, again at the approach to Beams Road and again all the way down Gympie Road to the Brisbane CBD. If they want to, they can drop into a tunnel at Kedron or maybe go down the gateway, but the chances of them getting to Brisbane without hitting traffic gridlock are zero.

We know that right now each morning in the north-west of Brisbane more than 329,000 trips are made during the morning peak. That is 329,000 commuters who sit in traffic for longer than they should. It is congested now, but by 2041 the congested network kilometres in North Brisbane will rise by 181 per cent. The problem is bad now, but in 2041 it will be nearly twice as bad as it is now. One would think that tackling that problem would be a priority for this government which so often likes to trumpet their big builds. What have we heard from Labor? What have we heard from the member for Aspley? This runs straight through the centre of the member for Aspley's electorate and what have we heard? Nothing—absolutely nothing.

When I speak to small and family businesses, they frequently raise concerns about traffic congestion. They speak about the financial impacts of trucks sitting in traffic. They speak about the business disruption of not being able to get products delivered when promised. They have spoken about the disruption when employees cannot get to work on time because of an accident. Many of the businesses that I meet are in Labor electorates on the north side of Brisbane. To be fair, they frequently want to meet because they want to work out how to support our candidates because they have given up trying to get action from ineffectual Labor members. They have given up trying to get action from the members for Pine Rivers, Aspley and Stafford, so they reach out to us trying to get some action. In many of those places there are significant commercial and industrial precincts and they tell me of the need—the critical need—for roads that link to the airport, the CBD and the Port of Brisbane. They talk about the concerns of having trucks and other freight sharing roads with cars in their electorate and of navigating school zones. They talk about the safety risks associated with that and the fact that freight is expected to grow by 60 per cent by 2040.

This is a problem affecting the majority of South-East Queensland. Everyone north of the Brisbane CBD and the south-east lives this problem. It is time to show Labor the door in '24.