



Speech By  
**Christopher Whiting**


**MEMBER FOR BANCROFT**

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Record of Proceedings, 22 May 2024

## MOTION

### Transport Infrastructure

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (5.45 pm): I rise to support the amendment to the motion. I am the first of the Moreton Bay members to speak on this motion. I point out that my electorate consists mostly of commuter communities. Every day we travel up and down that highway and then we hit the traffic of Brisbane. If we can bust the congestion, it will make a real difference to the lifestyles in our area. It will mean hours and hours more with the family each week instead of spent on the road.

This congestion does happen most times of the week. For example, I take my daughters down to play hockey at Rasey Park and Downey Park every Saturday morning and that congestion is still there. When I play hockey on a Sunday afternoon I have to deal with that traffic on the highway and I have to calculate that into my travel time. Gympie Road congestion is an everyday problem for me and everyone else in Bancroft. I can point out that it is the Miles government that is taking action on congestion. We are taking action on this. Gympie Road is a crucial connector for Moreton Bay residents and I am really proud to support our \$35 million investment to investigate a Gympie Road bypass tunnel. I think that stacks up very well against the LNP expenditure on billboards.

The residents of Moreton Bay want to see a transport solution to bus congestion and that is exactly what Labor is delivering. The potential benefits of this bypass tunnel are shorter commuter times, better connections to the Bruce Highway and to and from the Sunshine Coast, better connections to the west of the city through Legacy Way and south through the Clem 7 to the M1. Labor is doing more than just one project to help bust the congestion in that general area. What will really make a difference to the congestion in this area? It is one project—Sunshine Coast rail. What a difference that would make.

Wasn't it instructive that the member for Buderim talked for five minutes and never once mentioned the congestion-busting potential of Sunshine Coast rail? Thanks to Labor we are going to see a heavy rail connection that will make a trip to Brisbane at least 45 minutes faster than a car, and that will get so many more cars off the road. That is a 37-kilometre rail extension between Beerwah and Maroochydore. It will improve connectivity to Moreton Bay, Brisbane and beyond. The first stage will see that 19-kilometre dual track built from Beerwah to Caloundra. Can I mention the members for Nicklin and Caloundra for their great advocacy for this project?

**Mr Hunt:** Yes, you can.

**Mr WHITING:** I will mention it again. It is the longest spur line in the South-East Queensland passenger network. The first stage will cost between \$5.5 billion and \$7 billion. We have put \$2.75 billion on the table to build that and now the Labor federal government has matched that commitment. That full rail line will include seven new stations, a 1.2-kilometre tunnel at Little Mountain, 17 kilometres of elevated structure and that new corridor will be protected. That is the kind of investment that Labor and only Labor is delivering in our area to help ease congestion, to help bust congestion.

We are getting the projects done and we are getting the projects funded. We know the LNP talk a big game on infrastructure but the facts are clear: when they were in government they delivered zero infrastructure projects on the north side. In fact, the only project they delivered was a building for themselves in the middle of the city, and even that was done without a proper business case. That shows what the LNP's 'right priorities' are.

The LNP love the Gympie Road bypass tunnel proposal. They love it so much that the BCC has promoted it on billboards throughout the city. Even today the Leader of the Opposition posted a video online saying that it is time to get the north side moving. This is getting messy. LNP councillors are taking credit for the project but they have committed zero funding towards it. You cannot expect those opposite to talk seriously about busting congestion if they will not put money on the table.

I commend the amended motion to the House. I commend the member for Aspley for his great work on this project.

*(Time expired)*