




Speech By  
**Michael Crandon**

**MEMBER FOR COOMERA**

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**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (7.54 pm): I rise to make a short contribution to the Economic Development and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 and report No. 4 of the 57th Parliament of the Cost of Living and Economics Committee. I say congratulations to the minister for finally getting around to doing something just a few months out from the election. She is doing something that could have been done 10 years ago. Let's remember the last 10 years. Let's remember what happened over that 10-year period. Let's remember the Logan Renewal Initiative that was cancelled by this government a decade ago. Today we find ourselves in this position of a lack of housing. No-one saw COVID-19 coming. No-one saw the epidemic coming. No-one saw any of that occurring. What we did see coming, because the stats are there, was the population moving into South-East Queensland in particular and, indeed, into the northern Gold Coast.

I asked the Queensland Parliamentary Library to do some figures for me based on what the projections were a decade ago, what they were five years ago and what they are today, and they are literally identical. We saw this coming more than a decade ago. In fact, the library went back as far as 2011. We knew we were going to have this issue; we knew we needed more housing. However, those opposite cancelled the Logan Renewal Initiative, which was the starting point. It was intended to be used as practice, if you like, to establish whether or not it was going to work. Indeed, other states of Australia have taken on that initiative and have rolled it out successfully, but it was cancelled by this government. That was no surprise because this government is all about going slow. This government is all about coming out of the blocks very slowly and there are classic examples of that on the northern Gold Coast.

In 2017 we were promised the Pimpama train station. We are not getting the Pimpama train station before 2025 at the earliest. That will have taken eight years. Two years ago that train station was estimated to cost \$40 million; it is in the QTRIP at \$40 million. That train station is now going to cost \$170 million because of the slowness out of the blocks by this Labor government—by the Palaszczuk government before this government and by this government.

It was also them who took years to come out and do something about exit 49. I am bringing up these projects because they are all part of the issue we have, which is a lack of infrastructure development on the northern Gold Coast. That is my patch and that is where I am going to focus my attention. In relation to exit 49, the money was in the federal budget in May 2019. We are not going to see that exit completed before the end of this year, 2024, at the very earliest. It will have taken five years to build an overpass. It will probably be more like 2025 by the time it is completed, once again, because this government is slow out of the blocks.

The government says that this bill came out of the Housing Summit in October 2022, 21 months ago. In October 2022 we were halfway through the four-year term and here we are now, 21 months later and four months before the next election, and they are finally getting around to doing something. They are finally getting around to pulling together Economic Development Queensland and making the changes needed for EDQ to deliver increased housing supply across the state.

Those opposite could have been doing things over the last 10 years, but 21 months ago they held the Housing Summit and they are only just now starting to realise that they had better look like they are doing something about this. The government failed to plan and plans to fail in that regard, and it certainly plans to fail on the northern Gold Coast. There has been an explosion of development on the northern Gold Coast in the fastest growing region in Queensland based on Pimpama. There are 53½ thousand electors—35 per cent over quota—and over 100,000 residents on the northern Gold Coast. Those opposite knew that this was going to happen more than 10 years ago and they failed to plan, but they failed to plan in delivering the infrastructure as well.

I take on board what my colleague the member for Mermaid Beach said. He often raises the idea of using the canelands as a place to build more residential development and so forth. There are a lot of people on the northern Gold Coast who would say, 'Yes, that's a great idea,' but they would also say 'not before you provide the infrastructure, not before you provide the additional road infrastructure, not before you provide the east-west connectivity over the M1 and upgrade the roads getting to the M1 and'—God forbid—'build the second M1, the Coomera Connector'. There is nothing planned north of Shipper Drive for the Coomera Connector to be able to deliver any housing construction considerations in and around the canelands until the Coomera Connector is built. The previous minister is on record on ABC Radio saying that that section of the second M1 is 10 to 15 years away. This is typical again—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Lister): Member for Coomera, I would ask you to remain relevant to the bill under debate at the moment—the Economic Development and Other Legislation Amendment Bill.

**Mr CRANDON:** Thank you for your guidance, Mr Deputy Speaker. Just to finish on that topic, before we can provide any additional housing on the northern Gold Coast—and that is what this is all about—we have to provide the infrastructure, and that is where this government has failed. It has failed the people of Queensland. It has failed the people of the northern Gold Coast. It failed the people of Logan City when it cancelled the Logan Renewal Initiative a decade ago. It has failed us. It has continued to fail us over these years, and here we are four months from an election. The people of Queensland are not fooled. They know what this is all about. They know that this is all about those opposite looking like they are doing something. Today we had the Treasurer begging the people of Queensland to forget about the last 10 years. They will not forget about the last 10 years, and the opportunity is there for the people of Queensland on 26 October 2024 to show Labor the door.