



Speech By  
**Bart Mellish**

**MEMBER FOR ASPLEY**

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Record of Proceedings, 12 February 2026

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Infrastructure Projects; Bruce Highway**

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (2.12 pm): For a party with almost half their cabinet on the Sunshine Coast, it is remarkable that for transport there is no area worse off under this LNP Crisafulli government. First, the LNP broke their election commitment to deliver rail to Maroochydore, instead offering an AI-drawn bus as a poor consolation prize. Then late last year, they released new station plans for the Sunshine Coast direct rail line, running roughshod over the Beerwah community with their plans to bulldoze the 90-year-old Beerwah co-op. Last week we saw the disastrous new mapping for the Bruce Highway Western Alternative stage 4 snuck out, a road that now simply leads to nowhere. This government is taking Sunshine Coast residents for granted—

**Mr Powell** interjected.

**Mr MELLISH:** I will get to you, member for Glass House. At the heart of Beerwah is the co-op which has served the local community for the last 90 years. Owned by hundreds of local shareholders like small business owners and primary producers in the member for Glass House's electorate, the co-op's model focuses on supporting locals, something the LNP could learn from.

I recently met with the team from the co-op and their action group, and I want to thank and acknowledge them here today. It really is a community hub, a hardware store and a garden centre all in one. All the tangible community benefits that this co-op provides are now at risk from the changes the LNP have made to the Sunshine Coast rail project. Following new corridor mapping released last year, the co-op was told their time was up, that TMR would resume their site to build a four-storey commuter car park, dwarfing nearby local shops and undoubtedly causing long-term disruptions to the town.

Rather than giving in, the co-op is mobilising. They are determined to hold this government to account and, with over 6,500 signatories, they are not alone. The co-op have made direct appeals to their local MP, the member for Caloundra, and surrounding MPs like the member for Buderim and the member for Glass House, but currently no minister has shown up to meet with them. That is disappointing. The Minister for Transport talks a big game in here, but he is too scared to drive 20 minutes down the road from his electorate to meet with businesses getting turfed out because of his own department's actions.

Then we come to the new route for stage 4 of the Bruce Highway Western Alternative. A road once designed to reduce congestion on the Bruce Highway, it is now destined to be a busy side street, stopping in the middle of Elimbah. The LNP promised to scrap the existing route and offer a new one—

**Mr Powell** interjected.

**Mr MELLISH:** I am not taking your interjections, member for Glass House. They have delivered half an election commitment with no connection through to Steve Irwin Way, let alone the Bruce Highway. This road is scrapped. Let's call it for what it is—the LNP has scrapped the Bruce Highway Western Alternative. With Queensland's population continuing to boom, Caboolture is expected to be home to tens of thousands more residents over the next 30 years. This road would have catered for many of them. It makes you wonder just who this government had in mind when they signed off on this new route. Was it the local farm owners, residents who have owned their properties for decades, or was it just their property developer mates?

Two years ago, the member for Glass House stood here and said, 'This is not how you treat people.' He called for the government to provide a clear timeline for affected residents. Those comments have not aged well because now the minister is putting videos on Facebook saying the road is two decades away. Two decades away! Let's call it for what it is: the LNP has scrapped this project. When you are stuck on the Bruce Highway, you know who to blame.