




Speech By
Hon. Brent Mickelberg

MEMBER FOR BUDERIM

Record of Proceedings, 19 February 2025

MOTION

Direct Sunshine Coast Rail Line

 **Hon. BA MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (5.59 pm): Under Labor, the Sunshine Coast misses out. It does not matter what term we look at, whether it is the Beattie government, the Bligh government, the Palaszczuk government or the Miles government: under Labor, the Sunshine Coast misses out. Those opposite have come in here to try to run another pathetic and insipid scare campaign with no basis in fact and no substance, just as we saw with their pathetic, grubby tactics at the election.

The reason Kendall Morton is the member for Caloundra is that Jason Hunt abandoned his community. Jason Hunt took his riding orders from the Labor Party leadership and abandoned his community. I contrast that with Kendall Morton, the now member for Caloundra, who is a person committed to her community. She is a person who, I might say, did not seek political office for gain; she was dragged here because she is a community champion who cares about Caloundra. She is a fearless advocate for Caloundra and she is already delivering more for Caloundra than Jason Hunt ever did.

Let us look at some facts. In 2005, Labor promised to build heavy rail to Maroochydore by 2020. On 29 August 2005, the Hon. Paul Lucas said—

We will establish the line from Beerwah to Caloundra by 2015, and up the coast to Maroochydore by 2020, bringing rail to the Sunshine Coast.

To me, that sounds complete, absolute and unconditional. That was Labor's promise, but what did we see? We saw a subsequent plan outlined in *Connecting SEQ 2031*, which is another Labor document. It states that they would 'construct the Sunshine Coast rail line from Beerwah to Maroochydore'. That is a Labor document. There are pictures of Anastacia Palaszczuk and Anna Bligh on the inside cover. I table both of those documents.

Tabled paper: Queensland Government: Report titled 'Connecting SEQ 2031: An Integrated Regional Transport Plan for South East Queensland' [108](#).

Tabled paper: Media statement, dated 29 August 2005, by the former minister for transport and main roads, Hon. Paul Lucas, titled 'Making tracks on the Sunshine Coast' [109](#).

That is the Labor Party's record when it comes to supporting the Sunshine Coast. The Labor Party abandoned the Sunshine Coast at every opportunity. The Mooloolah River Interchange was cut under Labor. The federal Morrison government funded the Mooloolah River Interchange. It was the Labor federal government and their patsies in the former Labor state government that cut that funding. Labor did not even get close to the start line for the Sunshine Coast rail line. The north coast line duplication, even to the start of Beerwah, was not finished. They have never been committed to the Sunshine Coast and they never will be.

This is one item in a long list of Labor failures when it comes to rail. Time and time again, Labor have demonstrated that they do not care about rail. They cannot deliver rail when they do make a promise and they hide it from Queenslanders. An article dated 17 November 2023 headed 'Rail cost blowout "hidden": Bailey admits overruns' states—

State Transport Minister Mark Bailey has again been exposed hiding billions of dollars in project blowouts just months after he almost lost his job for trying to hide a major overrun.

...

Mr Bailey, labelled "incompetent" by the LNP—

a fair characterisation—

argued that project overruns were "not unusual" ...

A government member: Not for him.

Mr MICKELBERG: No, not under Labor. The article continues—

The latest multibillion-dollar blowout comes just months after Mr Bailey was caught attempting to hide a \$2.4bn increase in the Queensland Train Manufacturing Program at Maryborough.

Another article by Hayden Johnson is titled 'He's done it again: Bailey's blowout billions are revealed'. An article from 20 November 2023 is titled 'Slow on fast cost: Coast rail cost doubles'. An article dated 29 November 2023 is titled '\$3.1bn bill revealed in latest Bailey blowout'. Time and time again, Labor have shown they cannot be trusted when it comes to delivering rail infrastructure. Whether it is for the Sunshine Coast, the Gold Coast or Brisbane, Labor fail time and time again—and worse, they hide it.

I want to address one last point in the short time available. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition comes in here and tries to smear people. One of the people he has tried to smear is Amanda Yeates, a former deputy director-general in the Department of Transport and Main Roads under Labor. She was a capable public servant who dared to have an opinion in relation to this project. That tells the public servants of Queensland everything they need to know about Labor and their hollow rhetoric.

(Time expired)

Mr DICK: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at the words used by the member for Buderim and ask him to withdraw. They are entirely untrue.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, do you withdraw?

Mr MICKELBERG: To be clear, I was reflecting on the Deputy Leader of the Opposition's comments in relation to an individual, but I withdraw.