




Speech By
Kendall Morton

MEMBER FOR CALOUNDRA

Record of Proceedings, 19 February 2025

MOTION

Direct Sunshine Coast Rail Line

 **Ms MORTON** (Caloundra—LNP) (5.48 pm): I rise to not only support the amended motion but also thank the member for Woodridge for pointing out multiple times today that, yes, I am the member for Caloundra and explain to him through this House that that is because I am the one who listened to the people of Caloundra when the opposition did not. It is my advocacy that I would suggest is the reason the former government even knows that Caloundra is an electorate in this House. We all know that for 30 years there has not been investment into Caloundra. I am honoured and privileged to show the other side of this House that there is an electorate called Caloundra and that it has missed out.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Butcher interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Gladstone, I was on my feet. You are warned.

Ms MORTON: I find it astonishing that there are two Labor members that had the time today to go all the way to Caloundra, possibly for the first time in a very long time, just to spread more of their scare campaigns around my electorate and around Queensland. The last time they ran a scare campaign the people of Queensland did not listen. That should serve as a reminder to the former government.

Here are some truths—this side of the House is good at telling the truth: the former member for Caloundra did not support the Sunshine Coast Council in delivering the Caloundra transport corridor upgrade, a crucial road that provides an alternate access route into Caloundra. The former government did not support that road, a significant road project that has a direct impact on the issue of congestion in Caloundra. Here is another truth: throughout the entire state campaign they did not mention Caloundra Road. What is the No. 1 issue for my electorate? It is Caloundra Road. Why did they not mention it? Maybe it is because they did not know that that was the No. 1 issue for our electorate because they did not listen and they did not ask. The reason why I have the privilege and honour of standing here to represent the people of Caloundra today is because I doorknocked on 10,000 doors so I know that the No. 1 issue is Caloundra Road. My team made 17,000 phone calls. Those opposite did not know because they did not listen.

Here is another truth: the federal Labor government has dropped the Sunshine Coast direct rail project from Infrastructure Australia's priority list. What I would like to know is why the member for Aspley and the member for Morayfield are not calling out their federal counterparts. Why are they driving to Caloundra in the middle of a sitting week instead of calling out their federal counterparts? Labor governments have been playing politics with Caloundra and with the Sunshine Coast direct rail for 30 years. The people of Caloundra, the people of the Sunshine Coast and the people of Queensland do

not believe it anymore. We have tasked GIIICA with undertaking a review. We are sensible, we are calm and we are not running scare campaigns for the people of Queensland. We are not fighting each other, we are not running from the chamber and we are not running scare campaigns that the people of Caloundra are not listening to anymore. They know it is about rail, roads, public transport and getting around, because our population has continued to explode with absolutely no investment in over 30 years from the former government. It is unacceptable. The people of Caloundra do not accept it either. I will continue to fight for Caloundra. I will continue to be a voice for Caloundra and—

(Time expired)