




Speech By
Martin Hunt

MEMBER FOR NICKLIN

Record of Proceedings, 19 February 2025

MOTION

Direct Sunshine Coast Rail Line

 **Mr HUNT** (Nicklin—LNP) (6.20 pm): Not that she needs it, but I proudly rise to defend my friend and one of the best members for Caloundra that Caloundra has ever seen. Certainly between her and the previous member for Caloundra, Jason Hunt, there is a world of daylight. Paragraph 5 of motion is not only wildly inaccurate; it is offensive. The motion calls on the parliament to condemn the member for Caloundra. Are you kidding? This hardworking new member for Caloundra has done more for her electorate in 100 days than the previous member did in four years.

We know what the previous member for Caloundra delivered. All he delivered was the threat of a youth jail in Caloundra. I was working in Caloundra police station at the time. I saw our Caloundra watch house have taxpayer funds wasted on the project—a watch house put out of commission for us poor coppers—while the former member tried to sell this absolute disaster to his community. When he realised his complete failure he back-pedalled at a rate of knots and abandoned his only pet project for this area.

We have seen another very important Labor member back away from things recently. The Labor Prime Minister has backed away from his commitments to Queensland. We know that the current opposition leader will back his Canberra mates over the interests of Queenslanders. I fear that future projects in Queensland relying on federal funding promises will only be delivered by a Peter Dutton coalition being elected at the upcoming federal election. I encourage Queenslanders to back a prime minister who is a real Queenslander and will stick up for Queensland projects.

In contrast to the Leader of the Opposition and the old member for Caloundra, the hopeless Jason Hunt—no relation—the new member for Caloundra has fought incredibly hard for her community, has listened to her community, has the confidence of that community and won the seat off that Labor member who was only promising to deliver the Caloundra car park, as we heard other members call it this evening. The problem with this project is that the opposition will not fight for Queensland. They will not fight their federal government for our fair share, and that has been an historic issue. They have been keeping secret what is going on before the federal election.

While I am on the rail project, I was part of the 2017 campaign at which we advocated for the duplication of the rail line to Nambour. This is a project stalled and pushed away continuously by the Labor government over some 20-odd years. This is a project that should have been finalised years ago. This is a project I took to the election in 2017 with a commitment to finally build. Unfortunately, we ended up with a Labor government that cannot deliver projects on time and on budget and so our community of Nicklin and Nambour missed out again.

I know that there is an infinite need and finite resources for projects and we have all come to know recently the disastrous state that the former government has left the financial books in in this state. I understand that since the Olympics were awarded to Queensland priority projects for that will mean that Nambour will have to wait a little longer now for the finalisation of the duplication which, as I said, should have been delivered years ago by Labor governments.

They have failed Queensland with a generation of failure. They have the hide to come into this House with this ridiculous motion condemning the hardest working member I observed in last year's election campaign. She knocked on 10,000 doors. This is a woman who put aside her business and personal interests to fight for her community and campaign for change, successfully winning the seat of Caloundra from a failed Labor member. The Labor members in this House should be embarrassed to have even mentioned her in this motion, not to mention the use of aggressive and disgusting language calling for the House to condemn her. I will back our member for Caloundra against any member on this side of the House. We are proud to have such a strong advocate for her community, an effective listener and a fantastic member of parliament. I condemn the Labor Party for the disastrous generation of failure of the people of Queensland.