



Speech By  
**Shane King**


**MEMBER FOR KURWONGBAH**

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Record of Proceedings, 19 February 2025

**MOTION**

**Direct Sunshine Coast Rail Line**

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (6.05 pm): Today I rise to support the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition regarding the backtracking—a sad but perfect pun—of the LNP on its promise to build the direct Sunshine Coast rail, the very same rail project the LNP has been calling on Labor governments to deliver for as long as I can remember. Their enthusiasm for the project has already gone off the rails—another pun. I hope we can hear from the member for Maroochydore about how her constituents feel about this. Their votes were cast for a broken promise and a legacy of lies instead of generational change.

**Ms SIMPSON:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. That is unparliamentary language.

**Mr KING:** I withdraw. The newly minted member for Caloundra defeated the champion we had for Sunshine Coast direct rail in Labor's Jason Hunt. We loved having a Hunt in this place. We have one now, but I am sorry to say that he is the wrong one. Let us hear from the member about why she is so happy to put the brakes on this fully costed and fully funded election promise to build her voters a new rail line—fully costed and fully funded, or so they said.

Let us recap some of the things our esteemed Premier said before the election. During the televised leadership debates the Premier repeatedly said, 'Our plans are fully costed and fully funded.' In the *Courier-Mail* dated 30 September 2024 the Premier was quoted as saying 'our comprehensive plans will ensure world-class services infrastructure delivered on time and on budget'. He also said, 'You will see our tax plan, and you will see that every single projects we commit to will be on time, on budget, fully costed.' He also said that, by introducing a productivity commission, he would build more with the money that is there.

In June 2024, ABC News reported a promise from the then leader of the opposition that his party would support everything in Labor's budget. What is interesting is that on 8 March last year the *Courier-Mail* reported that the LNP insisted it could fully build the rail line to Maroochydore by 2032. State Labor were talking about building rail to Caloundra by 2032 and staging the rest. The LNP thought they could do better. Back then, the \$12 billion estimated project price tag to build to Maroochydore was not deterring them. They were gung-ho. They said that they would build it. In fact, on 25 February 2024 the now Deputy Premier declared—

You can't have a half-baked program on the Sunshine Coast, it has to be to Maroochydore, and it has to be to Maroochydore before the 2032 Olympic Games.

One cannot help but feel a little sorry for the member for Caloundra, who stood so proudly next to the member for Kawana, boasting about their plan to deliver heavy rail all the way to Maroochydore and that they would stop turning her community 'into a car park'. Perhaps she has been railroaded—another pun—into this backflip.

**Ms Morton** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Caloundra, your interjections are not being taken.

**Mr KING:** On Facebook, the member for Caloundra expressed her excitement to be back in the chamber for the first sitting of 2025. I am not so sure on Friday she will be excited to head home to a community that has been let down and failed on the delivery of this project, because that is what is happening here. The Deputy Premier, the Premier and all members opposite have turned their backs on the Sunshine Coast. In fact, it seems like the only LNP members standing up for their communities are in the federal arena, but then again maybe that is because the federal election is just around the corner. Either way, I am guessing federal members of parliament probably will not want the state members for the Sunshine Coast handing out for them on pre-poll because they have abandoned the families, workers and businesses they were elected to represent.

Those communities have a betrayal on their hands—a rail betrayal. In typical LNP fashion, now that they have won power they are breaking their promises. Right now, the member has a chance to redeem her inability to advocate for her community: join Labor in condemning the Deputy Premier and the LNP Crisafulli government for their rail betrayal.

As a member representing an outer suburban electorate, and as the shadow assistant minister for transport, I know how important it is to keep our communities connected. That is why we introduced 50-cent fares when we were in government. That is why we provided a fully funded plan for heavy rail to Caloundra. That is why the former Miles Labor government proudly funded the public transport network on our busiest roads to ease congestion and get people home more quickly and safely. Sadly, the residents of outer suburbs will miss out on the benefits that a re-elected Miles government could have delivered.

If I had time, I would love to talk about a few other election commitments for my electorate of Kurwongbah, such as potentially being able to catch a train from Maroochydore to Kurwongbah. To reach our university and the \$60 million TAFE Centre of Excellence at Petrie, you potentially could have caught a train from Caloundra. Anyway, my time has run out.

*(Time expired)*