




Speech By
Shannon Fentiman

MEMBER FOR WATERFORD

Record of Proceedings, 19 February 2025

MOTION

Direct Sunshine Coast Rail Line

 **Ms FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (6.15 pm): It is interesting that we have heard from those opposite that only the LNP will stand up for the Sunshine Coast. If you ask the mayor of the Sunshine Coast and the federal LNP members on the Sunshine Coast they tell a completely different story. In fact, they are the ones saying that the member for Kawana and the member for Caloundra have absolutely let down the people of the Sunshine Coast. It is not just us saying it, it is not just us moving this motion; the mayor of the Sunshine Coast and their own federal LNP members are saying it.

We know that the member for Kawana is very well known for his Elvis impersonations, but that is not the only impersonation he can do. The member for Kawana has spent the past 100 days impersonating an honest person. The member for Kawana committed to the people of his own community and to the people of the Sunshine Coast that an elected LNP government would deliver direct Sunshine Coast rail. I quote—

It has to be Maroochydore and it has to be Maroochydore before the 2032 Olympic Games.

They were his words. The member's sudden backflip is not just political incompetence; it seems now it is calculated deception. He knew what he was saying during the election. He knew how important this project was to the Sunshine Coast community. Now, after getting the votes, he is trying to bury his promise under excuses. What has also become apparent is the member for Caloundra's inability to stand up for the community she swore to represent. Whether that is because she is being intimidated by the Deputy Premier or she never cared for it in the first place, we just do not know.

It has not even been six months and the backflip we are witnessing from this government will leave the people of the Sunshine Coast behind. As we have heard from a number of speakers, the member for Caloundra, in her own words, said—

Traffic congestion is also a huge issue for residents, and I have grave concerns about the rail ending in Caloundra. This would be a disaster as the traffic in Caloundra is already unmanageable.

With the LNP now backflipping on the plans to extend the rail to Maroochydore, the member for Caloundra should feel pretty let down by her own team who have completely hung her out to dry. The LNP were the ones who labelled the traffic conditions as 'the Caloundra car park', but now they are in government, now they are in charge, they are quite happy for the Caloundra car park to continue.

It is pretty embarrassing not only for the member for Caloundra but also for the Deputy Premier to have their own federal LNP members call them out on this. The federal member for Fairfax, Ted O'Brien, stated—

Claims that the project now costs \$20 billion with trains running at only 50 kilometres per hour along 20-metre high tracks across the coast are in stark contrast to every briefing I've had on this project over the last eight years.

Who do we believe—Ted O'Brien or our Deputy Premier? From this side of the House, it looks like those opposite have been intentionally dishonest with the voters of the Sunshine Coast.

The Deputy Premier's excuses are not really checking out. What is the real reason for this sudden backflip? Instead of building the rail all the way to Maroochydore, it seems they would rather now sell off the rail corridor to developers. People with close ties to the LNP, like former coalition minister Mal Brough, are pushing to scrap the rail line and cash in on land sales.

Mr Bailey: The Russ Hinze option.

Ms FENTIMAN: The Russ Hinze option. I take that interjection from the member for Miller. This checks out, given the reports in the *Brisbane Times* today of the Deputy Premier himself owning land at Aroona that backs right along the railway corridor—land that would be impacted if the Maroochydore rail went ahead. It is right here in his Register of Members' Interests. It seems his five-acre property at Aroona is more important to him than his own promise of delivering for voters on the Sunshine Coast.

The Deputy Premier should no longer be the infrastructure minister. He must be immediately removed from that portfolio because of his hopeless conflict of interest. What does his conflict of interest management plan say about moving an amendment and speaking on a motion to do with Sunshine Coast rail when he has a personal pecuniary interest in the project? He should immediately be stood down from that portfolio.