



Speech By
Jann Stuckey

MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN

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ADJOURNMENT

Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Policy

 **Mrs STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (6.01 pm): For 15 years I have had regular discussions with Main Roads staff in my office about issues that directly affect my electorate. As the elected representative for Currumbin, like other honourable members, I have a duty to keep residents informed, respond to their questions and concerns, and provide them with up-to-date information. My staff felt confident they were up to speed on matters that constituents contact them about, but all that changed a couple of weeks ago.

A meeting was booked several weeks earlier and, as per normal protocol, topics we wanted to discuss were sent to Main Roads. They emailed back to say who was attending the meeting. The meeting time arrived but Mr Noonan, the regional director of the south coast, was a last-minute cancellation and a woman was sent in his place. There was no prior warning, which would have been polite, just a no-show. As I sat down with the two staff, one of their mobiles rang and they said, 'It's the minister's office.' Thinking it was a private call I said, 'You're welcome to take the call in a side room,' but, no, it was Felix from the minister's office calling in to listen in on our meeting. There was no warning; no asking whether it was okay—nothing—so I terminated the meeting.

When I asked these guests in my office what was going on, I was told it was a change in policy from the minister's office four to six weeks earlier and that ministerial staff could listen in if they wanted to. What arrogance! Why were MPs not told about it beforehand? Is a memo going out or is this yet another sneaky tactic from this government to control information? Why the sudden change of policy? Why is a staffer from the minister's office, not the department, and most probably a card-carrying member of the Labor Party listening in on conversations between an MP and Main Roads senior staff? It is sneaky and it is underhand.

This is a minister who has presided over an appalling mess with ongoing rail fail, lack of train drivers and a massive cost to taxpayers of over \$170 million. This is a minister who takes a cheap shot whenever he can even in question on notice replies and blames everyone but himself and his cronies for delays and cost blowouts. This is a minister whose multimodal study into key southern Gold Coast transport routes was not finished on time last year, the excuse being there are more investigations to be done. Meanwhile residents agitating about house resumptions are forced to wait.

This is a minister who uses standover, bullying tactics that even intimidate departmental staff. Well, he does not scare me and I shall be telling the good people of Currumbin exactly how this Palaszczuk government operates and how Minister Bailey is deliberately trying to prevent me from accessing information that residents of Currumbin have a right to know. Labor do not know how to play fair. They and their union comrades think they can infiltrate, brainwash and bully all who do not agree with them. As I have said before, the questions on notice are not being fully answered and they are even being sent to the media before the MP who asks them. I will not tolerate it.