

Queensland Parliament Hansard Green

DATE: 10/11/2016

FILE: 10112016\_001235\_LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY\_GREEN CHAMBER.DOCX

SUBJECT: Gold Coast Commonwealth Games

MEMBER: Mr LANGBROEK

### Gold Coast Commonwealth Games

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (10.23 am): Another day and another disaster for the bumbling transport and Commonwealth Games minister, and today implicating the Deputy Premier. On Sunday the minister shamelessly announced that ticket sales for the Gold Coast Games would be up to \$15 million less than forecast. He then refused to rule out taxpayers footing the bill for the difference. That is all right, folks; it is coming from the Labor magic money tree.

Following this debacle we learnt that the Gold Coast Suns were going to be without a home for the preseason because CFMEU strike actions had delayed the finalisation of their training centre which forms part of the Carrara precinct. As the Deputy Leader of the Opposition pointed out yesterday, there is no excuse for this given that we queried the games minister, the Minister for State Development and the Minister for Industrial Relations about this pending issue during estimates in July. What did we hear from the Minister for the Commonwealth Games at the time? 'Don't you worry about that,' he said, 'we have these games under control.' He did not even know the contents of the incoming brief that went to the chair of Goldoc, Peter Beattie, which said it was all supposed to be finished by October 2016. He suddenly changed it to say that it will be ready a year before the Games. What did he say about the Games village? He said—

The Games Village, or the Parklands development, is a \$550 million project, with a state contribution of some \$264 million ... Again, I can assure the committee that the delivery of the games venue is on track for completion well ahead of the games.

In just three months the games village has crashed off the rails—just like the train timetabling, just like the ticket fiasco and just like the Carrara delays. \$50 million variations are blowing out the construction cost. This has become almost comical but the consequences are terrible. What is worse is that the 'shadow minister' and chair of Goldoc has thrown the minister under the proverbial bus and said that this is his problem.

There are serious questions for the minister to answer. When did Grocon first advise the minister of the cost blow-out? When did the minister first tell the Premier and the Treasurer? Why did the minister fail to mention any of this during any of his public statements? How many jobs will be lost as Grocon seeks to deliver the games village within the envelope? The minister needs to come clean on what he knew and when. More importantly, we need to see some leadership from the Premier to finally show this bungling minister to the door. The Gold Coast's reputation to deliver these Games is too important to risk on some factional favourites. Earlier this week the Premier said that she could not move the minister on because it would send a bad message to Games nations. I think the message is far worse if we keep this minister as we get closer to the Games.

Here are three variations which the people on the Gold Coast would like to see. We would like to see a new Commonwealth Games minister. We would like to see a variation to the laws that are going to allow criminal gangs back on to the streets. Finally, as the people of the Gold Coast said at the last election: we would like a variation; we would like a new LNP government.