

BUSINESS

'They'll have to give it away': MP fears rail land swap



Kawana MP Jarrod Bleijie has raised concerns about potential mass transit plans for the Sunshine Coast. Pics Tara Croser.



[SCOTT SAWYER](#)

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Kawana MP Jarrod Bleijie says the only way a light rail system can work is if land to develop is gifted to foreign companies to build the network.

The former Attorney-General had backed community efforts to force Sunshine Coast Council into more community consultation, after a resident action group titled Mass Transit Action Group formed in recent weeks.

Mr Bleijie said he'd met with the group and understood it was eager to work with council on community engagement to ensure the right mass transit solution for the region.

He said he feared the impact of up to 100,000 extra people living in urban infill along the Nicklin Way stretch of the proposed light rail corridor on the major road and surrounding traffic networks.

"The costs are astronomical," Mr Bleijie said.

"The only way that this project will stack up is if the council gifts land to foreign companies to build this rail."

The spokesman said there remained considerable work to be carried out as part of the finalisation of the preliminary business case and options analysis for a potential mass transit solution.

He said he would be reluctant to support "mass resumptions" of homes and businesses in the area, and also questioned how much the construction phase would impact on businesses in the area.

He said the priority should be on education and getting people on buses, and bringing the CAMCOS corridor to fruition.

(Paywall applies to full article)