




Speech by

Mark Boothman

MEMBER FOR ALBERT

Hansard Thursday, 1 November 2012

JOHN MUNTZ CAUSEWAY

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Albert—LNP) (9.07 pm): I wish to update the House on the progress of the John Muntz Causeway. This causeway is located on Oxenford-Tamborine Road and is a major arterial link in the southern part of the Albert electorate. This important arterial link was damaged during the 2010 floods which struck our state and was rendered closed to traffic until repairs were carried out. These repairs were somewhat controversial as multiple members of the community voiced concerns over the viability of repairing a causeway which should have been replaced many years ago.

Furthermore, the previous government spent vast amounts of hard working taxpayers' money on two other bridges on the Oxenford-Tamborine Road whilst the most critical bridge, the John Muntz Causeway, was left neglected. Upon completion of the repairs, the causeway was reopened to traffic. However, the repairs were unable to withstand the next flood event in 2011. The 2011 floods caused extensive damage to the upstream side of the culverts. These culverts cracked and emergency repairs were once again undertaken to stabilise the causeway. Subsequently, only a single lane of traffic can cross the causeway.

These interim repairs have allowed this vital link to be once again somewhat operational. However, during peak traffic times, the line of vehicles queued to use the causeway stretches for over one kilometre in each direction. To help manage traffic, traffic management lights have been installed.

The residents of Albert have had to endure this motorist's nightmare for far too long. However, I am delighted to announce to the House that the Newman government has provided funding for the construction of a new bridge. The new bridge is expected to be 60 metres long and constructed immediately downstream of the current structure.

Mr Hart: How much money?

Mr BOOTHMAN: The cost of the construction of a new bridge will be about \$4 million. The design of the new bridge will provide improved flood immunity and reduce flooding impacts during future wet weather events. I can advise the House that a new design for the replacement bridge is close to completion and it is anticipated that construction will begin in April 2013, subject to contractor availability and weather conditions.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads have also informed me that they are arranging project signage to be installed on either side of the causeway to advise road users of the construction time frame for the new bridge. On behalf of the residents of Albert and all those who utilise this major arterial link, I wish to thank the Newman government for funding this crucial project.