



Speech by

**JOHN MICKEL**

**MEMBER FOR LOGAN**

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Hansard 18 November 1998

**TRANSPORT LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL (No. 2)**

**Mr MICKEL** (Logan—ALP) (12.41 p.m.): Firstly, I want to congratulate the member for Gregory. Last year he extended a courtesy to the people of Logan when the former member was ill. I went and saw the member for Gregory about a number of road projects in the Browns Plains area on behalf of those people, and he very willingly agreed to take up those matters. Today, on behalf of the people of Logan, I want to thank the member publicly for that and acknowledge the very real concern that he showed at that difficult time. Everyone, of course, will be pleased to know that the former member for Logan is full of beans and is running a very successful consultancy business as well.

To show complete bipartisanship on this, I also want to congratulate the Minister. We had a very successful Cabinet meeting down in Springwood. The Minister was outstanding in the way that he received the delegations that day that I brought to him on behalf of people who were concerned about public transport. I do thank him and his officers for that.

I also commend him for the funds that he has given to help out the Clarks Bus Service in Logan City. Clarks put up some \$600,000 for the new, advanced technology—kneel-down buses. This is great technology and will provide a great service to many, many people throughout Logan City. In this place we have to get behind people who are willing to have a go, and Reg and Yvonne Clark have certainly proven that. The department has gotten behind them by providing about \$150,000 towards the cost of that new technology.

I also want to acknowledge the contribution of the member for Springwood in relation to the dedicated busways that he has been able to gain down there. That is certainly helping the provision of passenger transport in the Logan area.

I also want to raise with the Minister an ongoing problem in my electorate in relation to the provision of passenger transport in Julie Street. I know that he and his officers have done everything they possibly can to get a bus service for those people in Crestmead. The problem is, however, that some of the money he allocated is going towards working with the Logan City Council to try to provide better road designs. Where Julie Street runs into Bumstead Road, the council has put in a traffic island which makes it almost impossible for the bus service—the passenger transport service down there—to turn around. The quicker that issue can be resolved, the better off those students who attend St Francis College in Crestmead and also the people of Crestmead who wish to access the doctor's surgery at the Julie Street shops will be. I know that the Minister and his officers are doing what they can, but again I put in a plug for that.

It would also be remiss of me if I did not point out my hope that we can eventually get the Park Ridge transit contract finalised. People in my electorate, particularly in Boronia Heights—and I know my colleague the member for Archerfield shares these concerns because she just raised them with me—have raised concerns about passenger transport in the Forestdale area. In some of those areas, the passenger transport service ceases at 2.30 in the afternoon, which means that people coming home from work can get to Grand Plaza okay, but that is still many kilometres away from some suburbs. In actual fact, that simply negates people's access to passenger transport.

I am also hot to trot on it because we are trying to get traineeships and work release for kids at the high schools down there, at Park Ridge State High School in particular. The only way that we can get these programs to work is if we have reliable passenger transport. It really is the key to social justice

in my electorate because so many of those students have to rely on cars and, if their parents cannot drive the students, they are absolutely stuck. The quicker that we can resolve that transport issue, the better.

While the member for Gregory is in the Chamber, I would like to talk about an issue that I hope transcends any political considerations. The Logan area needs a concerted push from both the member opposite and the Minister for more bus infrastructure. That is as simple as providing bus shelters. One of the hardest things that I find in my electorate is people knowing when the bus runs. I know that sounds very simple, but the fact of the matter is that, without a place to display bus timetables, people do not know when the buses are going to run. My office is more than happy to help the Department of Transport with that. I know my council colleague down there, Councillor Cherie Dalley, does a great job, but the problem is that there is a lack of public places to display bus timetables. Little things such as seating and bus shelters are great ways in which we can extend the knowledge of bus timetables. I commend that measure both to the member for Gregory and the Minister.

I notice that earlier on the member for Gregory paid tribute to the Main Roads Department engineers—and I know that the Minister shares that view—and I want to thank them as well for the wonderful job that they do down in the Browns Plains area in helping out certainly me and the member for Archerfield with our numerous representations to them. I want to name those engineers for the great job that they do and in recognition of the fact that they are willing to serve the community. I particularly want to acknowledge the work done by Bob Drew, Paul McCormack and, of course, Ian Bertram. At a moment's notice they are willing to meet with me even though that major roadworks at the Browns Plains interchange is being carried out. People, small businesspeople in particular, are always affected by the local changes that occur and I am out to make sure that those small businesses can operate around what is a very important project. However, because of the project's nature, it tends to interfere with those small business operators. Those engineers have been very, very willing to listen, as has the private contractor. In particular, I pay tribute to Mark Leader for that.

Currently, roadworks are being carried out that will go into the Grand Plaza area. I will be meeting again this week or early next week—if it cannot be arranged this week—with small businesspeople down there to make sure that those turning arrows, turning lanes and access lanes do not disrupt the business area too much. The member for Archerfield and I constantly speak with officers about making sure that the traffic lights down through there do not unduly delay people. We have to always make sure that there is access to the highway, but in those off-peak times it can be very frustrating for people, particularly on Johnson Road and the Browns Plains interchange, if the light changes are not synchronised. I know that that is one of the major concerns in the Forestdale area.

I mentioned the member for Gregory in my opening. One of the things that he helped me and the people of Logan with last year was the St Bernadines school. The new roadway will run right alongside that school. Because of the Main Roads Department's continuity with the new Minister, it has seen fit to put up a fence along that roadway. That will be of assistance to the school. The school has asked me to raise one thing with the Minister, and I have certainly already raised it with the engineers. That school wants me to ensure that the landscaping that goes along the Mount Lindesay Highway past the school not only acts as a beautification for that area—and the school community has been very positive; it understands why the road has to be there—but also acts as a sound barrier.

At the same time, as the next phase of construction is moved into, some of the residences near the school will be affected when the people working on the highway use the service road. This will be a very important issue. Up to a dozen houses will be affected. One of the residents has come to see me about the increased noise that will be generated. I will be looking for some way in which those people can be compensated for the noise they will undoubtedly cop. This issue may end up on the lap of the Minister. The local residents understand the need for the road; however, they bought their houses many years ago but are the ones affected by the progress.

The consultation phase is continuing. I know that under this Minister the consultation phase on future development through the Park Ridge area has been excellent. However, there is an ongoing concern on the part of people in Mexicanus Drive. I know that Bob Drew will be meeting with the local people again tomorrow night. Unfortunately my parliamentary commitments mean that I will not be able to attend that meeting, but I ask the Minister and his officers to keep an eye on the concerns of the people in that area.

The only other point I make relates to the Logan Motorway, which will be further upgraded. I know that the member for Gregory started the project and the Minister is now letting the contracts for it. That is a very worthwhile project. I see it not only as a job creation project, which it undoubtedly will be for those contractors——

**Mr Johnson:** Good forward planning.

**Mr MICKEL:** I take the point. I want both the Minister and the member for Gregory to understand something which is important for the Logan area. That road network provides a first-class east-west interconnector. It means that people can access the Marsden Park industrial estate. We have already seen a great positive announcement from the Government about that. The Logan City Council is developing the Berrinba industrial estate in the electorate of my colleague the member for Sunnybank. Both those industrial estates will be dependent upon that road network. That is why it is essential that we give every consideration to the project and see what we can do to speed up those contracts and make sure that that duplication for the Logan Motorway goes ahead.

That would then give us a north-south access through the southern bypass and an east-west connection all the way from Warwick, through Toowoomba and then down on to the Gold Coast. That is so essential when we are trying to attract businesses to Logan City. The transport infrastructure is one of the reasons for the location of a large industrial company at Logan recently.

I also mention the upgrade going on between Ipswich Road and the Springfield development. That gives the people of Logan a third access back on to Ipswich Road. I know that the member for Gregory had a fair bit to do with that road work as well. I see that as very important.

I raise one other issue on behalf of the people of Logan. The people of Logan will cop paying the tolls on the southern bypass and the Logan Motorway. We do not have the luxury afforded to the people on the Sunshine Coast, who were able to get the toll removed from the Sunshine Motorway. However, there is a real social inequity when some of the poorest people around the place have to pay a toll while some of the folks on the Sunshine Coast who are a bit better heeled are able to get away without paying that toll.

This is not about one area being better off than another. However, there is a suspicion that, as more traffic lights are put on Beaudesert Road because of the development along it, the trip into town for people who live out there becomes much slower. Inevitably, if people want to get into town at peak hour with any sort of speed they are forced to use the tollway. The people in my electorate would ask me to raise that issue with the Government to see what can be done about Beaudesert Road, to see whether in the longer term some overpasses could be built so that people of that area can use the "free ways" as well as the tollways.

I congratulate the Minister on the excellent work he is doing. I particularly praise those officers in my area, who are very cooperative. I support the Bill. I know that members on both sides of the House support the Logan Motorway concept and the need to get on and build that Browns Plains Johnson Road interchange.

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