



Speech by

GORDON NUTTALL

MEMBER FOR SANDGATE

Hansard 8 December 1999

BRUCE HIGHWAY UPGRADE

Mr NUTTALL (Sandgate—ALP) (10.20 a.m.): At the end of this financial year, the Gold Coast Highway expansion works will be due for completion. I am sure that a number of commuters and honourable members will be pleased about that. However, whilst that work has been in progress, the Federal Government has continued to neglect funding for the Bruce Highway and the Gateway arterial road. People who live in the vicinity are represented by four Government members in the Federal Parliament, namely in the Federal electorates of Petrie, Fairfax, Fisher and Longman. For too long, residents who live along this corridor have been starved of funds which are needed to upgrade the road.

People who travel northbound along the Bruce Highway in the afternoon, or southbound in the morning, would be well aware of the gridlock that occurs on that highway. I am advised by the Department of Transport that if sufficient funding is not made available by the Federal Government to upgrade the Gateway arterial road and the Bruce Highway—which should be extended to Bribie Island—there will be total gridlock on both roads.

This is a totally unsatisfactory situation for residents of the area. The four Federal Liberal members, together with State Liberal members who represent electorates on the Sunshine Coast, need to get off their backsides and do some hard lobbying in order to acquire the necessary funds for upgrading the road. Anyone who travels along those roads—either in the morning or in the afternoon—would be aware of this disgrace. Cars are gridlocked—

Time expired.
