



Speech by

Mr G. HEALY

MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA NORTH

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TOOWOOMBA'S FIVE VITAL PROJECTS

Mr HEALY (Toowoomba North—NPA) (7.10 p.m.): I rise in this debate in support of my colleague the member for Toowoomba South, whose contributions in this House on Tuesday night and again this afternoon emphasise clearly the intention of both of us to push and promote the five key projects that are vital for the future economic development of Toowoomba. These are the vital five, as I call them, and the member for Toowoomba South and I are going to continue to do all we can to see that these five vital projects come to fruition.

The first of the five vital projects is the second range road crossing, which is absolutely essential given that the existing Warrego Highway, especially on the Toowoomba range, will be at vehicular capacity by the year 2002. The second of the five vital projects is the proposed Australian inland rail link—one of the most visionary projects seen in this nation since the Snowy Mountains scheme and absolutely essential to the prosperity of inland Australia. The third of the five vital projects is the recycling of grey water from the Brisbane area, pumped back to the Lockyer Valley and over the range to the Darling Downs. I acknowledge a commitment from the Minister for Environment to furthering the project. Water is probably the single most important issue in our area. The fourth vital project is the need to establish a major transport and warehousing industrial estate to the immediate west of the city. The fifth vital project is a major inner-city development involving the old post office, courthouse and police station precinct.

The completion of the five vital projects means long-term, sustainable jobs and prosperity. Many of those projects are going to need Federal Government assistance, but all of them can enjoy support and action from the State Government. The member for Toowoomba South and I have agreed to use any means available to us to continue to bring these five vital projects to the attention of State Ministers, not in a confrontational manner but in an aggressive and enthusiastic attempt to see exciting developments occur in one of the most productive areas of the State—Toowoomba and the Darling Downs.

The five vital projects are not some sort of pipedream, they are projects that are not unrealistic; they are projects that are very much achievable. I can only hope that the State Government can share the vision of the many people who are behind the five vital projects and begin immediately to take the necessary steps to see them completed. I urge all relevant Ministers to start taking them seriously.
