



Speech by

JULIE ATTWOOD

MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY

Hansard 30 November 1999

CENTENARY HIGHWAY

Mrs ATTWOOD (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (10.17 a.m.): From about 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. on week days, the Centenary Highway bottlenecks for about 2 to 3 kilometres from the Toowong roundabout. In the afternoon, the bottlenecks occur at the Ipswich Road end of the highway. This amount of traffic places a great strain on the highway. Brisbane's Western Gateway Environmental Quality report indicates that numbers of vehicles will increase from 35,000 to 65,000 by 2011.

People living along the highway are already suffering from the trauma of increasing traffic, noise and fumes. The Department of Main Roads is currently trialling a reduction in the speed limit on part of the highway close to residential areas. The problem has no simple solutions. If we add an extra lane to the highway, a bottleneck will still occur at the Toowong Cemetery and onto Milton Road. However, at the other end of the highway, Federal Government funding needs to be provided to improve the Ipswich Motorway roundabout to facilitate easier traffic flow onto Ipswich Road. An alternative and less expensive solution would be to increase and encourage the use of public transport.

The Lord Mayor of Brisbane has long promoted clean air policies, particularly in relation to the use of public transport and reducing the number of cars on roads. According to 1996 census data, 50% of households have 2 to 3 motor vehicles. If one has a car, one is more inclined to drive to work, particularly if public transport is not reliable.

A review of public transport usage in the Centenary suburbs is warranted. This review could identify the number of people who would access public transport if it were more reliable and more frequent. This should be followed by a public transport promotion campaign. I urge the Minister for Main Roads to work in consultation with the Brisbane City Council to undertake this essential review.
