



Speech by

Hon. KEN HAYWARD

MEMBER FOR KALLANGUR

Hansard 1 December 1999

BRUCE HIGHWAY UPGRADE

Hon. K. W. HAYWARD (Kallangur—ALP) (11.05 p.m.): I rise in the Parliament tonight to again highlight the disgracefully inadequate state of the Bruce Highway to the Bribie Island turn-off at Caboolture. This is a national highway and the funding for the upgrade is a Commonwealth responsibility. As I have previously stated in this Parliament, the traffic jams on this main artery to Brisbane in the morning and from Brisbane in the afternoon are appalling. Residents of Caboolture, Pine Rivers and the Sunshine Coast going to work in the morning have no certainty that they will arrive anywhere near their destination on time. This is a disgraceful situation for residents of these areas. Anyone in this Parliament who has any doubts about the problem only has to drive into the city from Caboolture about 7.30 a.m. I can guarantee that honourable members will not arrive at their destination on time.

However, it is not necessary to do that. One simply has to listen to any morning traffic report on the radio and one will hear such things as, "Traffic at a standstill at Dohles Rocks entrance onto the Bruce Highway," or, "Highway is clogged back to Boundary Road." That happens every morning.

Boundary Road is not a road in the city; Boundary Road is the boundary road between the Pine Shire and the Caboolture Shire. It is some way out of Brisbane City.

It would be extremely churlish of me if I did not acknowledge that some progress has been made on the highway. Work is nearing completion on six lanes to the Strathpine exit/turn-off. This construction has been in progress for some time, as anyone who drives on this road would know, and has required patience. It has not only called for patience from drivers on the highway, but there have been occasions when road construction workers have felt the wrath of drivers who have been sitting in the traffic.

Upgrading the Bruce Highway is of concern to all elected people in the Pine Rives and Caboolture Shires—whether they are mayors of the shires, shire councillors or members of State Parliament. Recently, I had the opportunity to meet with the Pine Shire Council. All present, including State MLAs, expressed our views on the urgent need to upgrade the Bruce Highway.

The meeting resolved to contact the Federal Minister, John Anderson, and invite him to visit the Pine and Caboolture Shires and inspect the Bruce Highway—hopefully during a peak period. I am sure that whenever the Federal Minister comes to the area he will soon realise the horrendous state of the highway as a main artery into Brisbane.

The meeting was important because it involved members of Parliament representing both sides of the House. Local councillors, who also had differing views, attended the meeting. It was resolved at the meeting that the idea was not to harangue the Minister when he came to the area. We simply wanted to invite him to come here and enjoy the company of local people and to look at the state of the road. Hopefully, it would fire up the Minister's examination and lead to a faster upgrade of the Bruce Highway.

In that spirit of bipartisanship, my colleague the MLA for Aspley, Mr Goss, has been charged by that meeting with the responsibility of contacting the Federal Minister and arranging a visit. Since that meeting—and that was only last month—I have had the opportunity to meet with representatives of the design and planning consultants working on the Bruce Highway project. The proposal is that designs will be completed by February 2000 to upgrade the Bruce Highway to the Dholes Rocks Road exit and entrances. Copies of the proposed design are available at my electorate office and a hard copy is on permanent display for anyone who is interested in seeing the proposals. I was told that the tender for the construction of this stage would be let in April 2000 and the project will be completed by the middle of 2001.