



Speech by

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM

MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE

Hansard 27 May 1999

DANGEROUS INTERSECTIONS

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM (Gladstone—IND) (7.03 p.m.): In every electorate there are a number of intersections that are of continuing concern to residents. We have two in particular in my electorate, namely the Benaraby junction and the Calliope crossroads. The Calliope crossroads is on the national highway. Jennie Slinger, who lives at Yarwun and is a part-time bus driver, has instituted a non-conforming petition which I seek leave to table.

Leave granted.

Mrs LIZ CUNNINGHAM: In that petition Jennie has gained 529 signatures and another 20 on unheaded sheets from people concerned about potential risks at that intersection. One of the issues concerns a power pole that obscures vision. It is proposed that this problem be fixed under the Main Roads maintenance program. I thank the Minister for that.

However, there are a number of other issues that Jennie Slinger has raised. For instance, a fully laden B-double truck was timed and found to take 5.7 seconds to clear the intersection from a standing start. A vehicle approaching from the south at 80 km/h would cover almost 130 metres in this time. That is about the limit of clear vision. If a vehicle was travelling at 100 km/h—well in excess of the signposted speed which is 80 km/h—there would be a disaster.

Many tourists and some local people do not adhere to the signposted speed limits. That fact is borne out by the proliferation of skid marks at the intersection. At least six school buses use this intersection twice daily. The petition requests that an overpass or a roundabout be constructed. A roundabout on a national highway is completely out of the question. The matter of an overpass has been planned for many, many years and was proposed to be implemented when the population increased and the traffic count increased.

However, the petitioners—and particularly Jennie, the principal petitioner who uses the intersection every day, as I do—

Time expired.
