



Speech by

**Mr M. HORAN**

**MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH**

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Hansard 14 April 1999

#### **WARREGO HIGHWAY**

**Mr HORAN** (Toowoomba South—NPA) (10.25 a.m.): The Warrego Highway from Toowoomba to Brisbane is one of the important transport lifelines of this State. The single-lane section known as the Gatton bypass, consisting of some 19 kilometres, has for some time been of great concern to the citizens of Toowoomba, the Darling Downs and western Queensland. When that bypass was constructed, it was a single-lane road of some 19 kilometres stretching between the four-lane highway from Brisbane and the road in from Toowoomba. That 19-kilometre section of road was narrow, it had narrow shoulders, and some sides of the road were steep. Tragically, 11 deaths and many, many more injuries have been part of the carnage that has occurred on that particular bypass. A lot of public concern has been expressed about this. A petition organised recently by Mrs Joan McDonald went to the Federal Government. Since then, another 30 pages of petitioners' names have been collected.

In recent years, that particular road has had some passing lanes added to it. Many of those passing lanes are located on hillsides; so trucks are trying to pass trucks, and cars with vans and so forth are trying to pass other vehicles, and that often ends up in a dangerous situation at the end of those passing lanes when people try to get back into single lanes. It is also one of the busiest road transport corridors in the State, being the main route from Brisbane to Melbourne and from Brisbane to Mount Isa.

I call on the Minister for Transport to continue to push for the four-laning of that road, as his predecessor the member for Gregory did. Also, there is an immediate need for signage that indicates that the road is a dangerous black spot of some 19 kilometres. The Oakey bypass has been completed, and the Federal Government has provided some money towards the Marburg bypass. The Warrego Highway should be the next urgent cab off the rank. We do not want to see any more deaths on that road. We do not want to see the continual fear and danger. People are driving the other way through Gatton because they are scared and frightened of driving on that road. Semitrailer drivers take alternative routes——

Time expired.

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