



Speech by

**Mr M. HORAN**

**MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH**

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Hansard 10 June 1999

### TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

**Mr HORAN** (Toowoomba South—NPA) (6.23 p.m.): I join in this debate on the motion to condemn the Minister for Transport and Minister for Main Roads for his failure to put in place adequate transport infrastructure with his Government's stamp on it. The hide of the Minister this morning when he stood up and talked about the achievements of the past 12 months! He has more front than a Woolworths window! Everything he spoke about today, except the tilt train from Rockhampton to Cairns, was put in place by the coalition Government. He did not even have the decency to say what was put in place by the coalition Government. The same thing applies to the contribution of the member for Mansfield. Just about everything he spoke about tonight was put in place by, or as a result of the policy of, the former Minister for Transport, the member for Gregory, and the coalition Government. We have seen this do-little Beattie Government do little in the area of transport. If it had not been for what was put in place by us, what would we have seen?

Let us look at the Pacific Motorway. In just two and a quarter years the coalition Government acquired the land, got the design done, had the contracts let and got the construction started. Up and down the length of the highway there were backhoes, bobcats and trucks. The whole thing was commenced by the coalition in Government. Can members imagine if the current Minister and the Beattie Government had carriage of that project from the start? After 12 months we would still be having workshops, with butcher's paper on the wall and all this sort of stuff—but no action. All the preliminary work was done and the project was put in place by the coalition Government.

About the only thing put forward by the Minister is the tilt train. We saw the promise during the election of \$122m. Now the Minister is saying that it will cost \$240m. The former Minister has told this House over and over again that that project will cost \$1 billion. During the election campaign there were false promises, lies and propaganda about the reduction in costs, about the number of trips and about the speed. None of it was able to be done for the amount of money mentioned.

The coalition Government extended the rail line to Robina. It was the former Minister who put in place the corridors for the bypass at the southern end of the Gold Coast in order to both service the airport and bypass the southern part of the Gold Coast.

Briztram is probably the beauty. All those opposite have done is change the badge and take off the most important part—the bikeway, walkway and tramway across the river that was to link West End and the University of Queensland. Those opposite took away one of the most important elements of the project which would have ensured its success as an inner city service. How ridiculous and stupid can they get?

I do not think there would be too many of us who will forget the koala tunnel. That epitomises the stupidity of the Labor Government when it comes to transport. All we see now is a transport infrastructure program that was implemented by us and left there for them. Let us see what they do in the next couple of Budgets. Then we will see the real failings of this Minister.

The final insult by the Minister was to claim credit for obtaining Federal funding for the Barkly Highway. We know that it was the coalition Government and the previous Minister, the member for Gregory, who got that particular funding. If the Minister believes that he can influence Federal funding, what is he doing about the upgrade of the Warrego Highway, the duplication of the Gatton bypass, the Toowoomba bypass—the second range crossing—or the New England Highway? The only person

fighting for it is the Opposition spokesperson. What is the Minister doing about it? Has he approached the Federal Government? Is he lobbying it? No! He has no plan for the future.

**Mr BREDHAUER:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I find the assertion of the member for Toowoomba South offensive. It is wrong and I ask him to withdraw.

**Mr HORAN:** I withdraw. The Government needs to put in place methods to complete the Gregory and Carnarvon Development Roads. There is a need to reduce the number of heavy vehicles on the Bruce Highway. The completion of those roads will certainly reduce the amount of traffic on the Bruce Highway. This Minister should concentrate on upgrading the east-west links along the lines of the Reef to Rock concept on the hard highway between The Lynd junction and Hughenden. He should seal the last 250 kilometres from Boulia to the border. These are some of the important things that should be done. Under the coalition a whole lot of projects were started. What will happen to them?

Time expired.

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