



Speech by

**Mr S. ROBERTSON**

**MEMBER FOR SUNNYBANK**

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Hansard 24 March 1999

**MCCULLOUGH STREET, PADSTOW ROAD**

**Mr ROBERTSON** (Sunnybank—ALP) (11.05 p.m.): Today's edition of that fine journal the Southern Star contains an article claiming that the Federal member for Moreton, Gary Hardgrave, has offered to open his own wallet and buy two \$38 signs to ban trucks from McCullough Street in Sunnybank. This represents nothing more than a populist stunt that gives no thought to the impact that such a move would have on the residents who live along other roads in my electorate but who happen to live outside his Federal electorate.

Let there be no misunderstanding: the number of trucks using McCullough Street and Padstow Road is a significant problem and solutions need to be found. However, to suggest that by erecting two signs at either end of the street to ban from McCullough Street all trucks except those for local deliveries would simply shift the burden onto other routes. Such a move would have a detrimental impact on surrounding roads such as Klumpp Road, Warrigal Road, Beenleigh Road, Compton Road, Mains Road and Pinelands Road, to name but a few. Similarly, to suggest that all trucks should use the southern bypass ignores previous studies on why trucks use McCullough Street and Padstow Road in preference to the bypass.

The Federal member for Moreton conveniently ignores the large industrial estates at Acacia Ridge and Rocklea and the traffic generated by the major transport and logistics companies located there. He claims that interstate trucks are a large part of the problem. That is simply arrant nonsense. Mr Hardgrave needs to actually talk to the companies at nearby industrial estates about their needs and why they use roads such as McCullough Street and Padstow Road. Despite his claims to the contrary, as he well knows the southern bypass was never meant to provide a route for trucks travelling to and from the Acacia Ridge industrial estates. I find it interesting that only a few years ago the member for Moreton was a passionate objector to the building of the bypass, but now he wants to put more trucks on it. Of course, consistency has never been his strong point. If only the member for Moreton had bothered to do some hard work and research on this issue—research that I and my colleagues the member for Mansfield, the member for Mount Gravatt, the member for Archerfield and councillor for Runcorn Gail Macpherson have done—he might understand the significant cost and distance penalties that would impact on trucks that use the southern bypass to access Acacia Ridge and Rocklea, and the impact on surrounding roads.

As I said previously, the number of trucks using McCullough Street, Padstow Road and nearby roads is excessive. The residents who live along those roads do suffer a significant loss of amenity and have every right to complain. This problem must be addressed and a sustainable solution found. However, simplistic, populist stunts put up by headline seeking politicians get us no closer to finding that elusive sustainable solution. It creates false hope and only adds to the problem. Cutbacks in Federal roads funding under the Liberal Government, of which the member for Moreton is a part, have only added to the problem of finding a sustainable solution.

Mr Hardgrave is seeking to simply shift the problem from his own electorate to neighbouring areas. That is grossly irresponsible. It is the job of politicians to represent and defend their electorates. However, there is also a responsibility for politicians, in representing their electorates, to consider the broader impact of their actions. On all counts, the Federal member for Moreton has failed, and he has failed his electorate.