



Speech by

**BRUCE DAVIDSON**

**MEMBER FOR NOOSA**

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Hansard 23 August 2000

**APPROPRIATION BILL, ESTIMATES COMMITTEE C**

**Mr DAVIDSON** (Noosa—LP) (3.37 p.m.): The Minister for Transport has used the Estimates committee hearings to extol the virtues of the funding he has injected into Queensland roads this year with great gusto and acclaim. In the past year in this Assembly, I presented him with petitions, asked questions on notice and have corresponded with him personally on a number of occasions about the disgraceful condition of the Eumundi-Noosa Road. During the previous sitting of this Chamber, I again asked him a question on notice about what he proposed to do about the intolerable situation of the deteriorating and dangerous condition of this main thoroughfare into Noosa. I received his answer only today. Given that I asked the question on notice on 20 July, the answer is three days late. I am appalled to read that the Minister has advised me in the answer to that question on notice that only \$80,000 will be spent on Eumundi-Noosa Road this year. This road has deteriorated enormously over the past eight or nine months, particularly during the wet spell we have had. It has become a very, very dangerous entrance into Noosa—and it is the main entrance into Noosa. I cannot believe that the Regional Director of Transport for my area, with whom I have had a number of meetings on this issue relating to a road that is carrying 15,000 to 16,000 vehicles a day, has not been able to bring to the Minister's attention the need for urgent funding to upgrade this road.

Earlier this year in response to a question on notice, I was advised that Main Roads would spend \$40,000 on a section from Justin Road to Grays Road on the Eumundi-Noosa Road. I want to advise the Minister and this Committee that the repair work that was done there is already eroding and there have been repairs done on the repairs. It is a disgrace. I believe that the work that was carried out there was a very, very substandard attempt to rectify some of the dangerous patches on that road. The Eumundi-Noosa Road will again have further pressure placed on it with the construction of the Eumundi bypass road commencing in November of this year. It is absolutely vital that in the next two or three years a major upgrade is committed to Eumundi-Noosa Road to ensure that the 15,000 to 16,000 vehicles that it carries at the moment, plus any future increase to that number, will be ensured a safe thoroughfare in the approaches to the major tourism destination of Noosa.

The road from Beckmans Road to the Emu Mountain Road roundabout is in a very poor state of repair. It is very dangerous at night. I have had complaints from a number of motorists in my electorate that they are hitting potholes and that the patches used to fill the potholes have washed away due to the wet weather. As a result, people are doing damage to their cars. I do not honestly believe that the regional director has not raised some of these issues with the Minister. In relation to the road from the Emu Mountain Road roundabout to the Eumundi bridge, the whole section of road, particularly the big dipper, is in urgent need of some loving care and attention.

The \$80,000 that the Minister has advised me he will spend this year will go some way to bringing that road to a safe standard in some sections, but it is far short of what is required. In the past two or three years, the Eumundi-Noosa Road has deteriorated. Without any maintenance money at all being spent on it, it is getting worse by the day. I suggest to the Minister that, if he has the time, he drive to Noosa and experience the safety problems associated with that road. It may be an opportunity for him to have discussions with his regional director about the importance for the department in Brisbane to be briefed about such issues to ensure that roads such as this are given the priority and the funding required to make them safe for all people who use them.

Another major issue in this regard is that on rainy, dark nights it is very dangerous for people to travel on this road. There is no lighting. The fact that drivers can hit potholes and rough surfaces is dangerous. I have received a number of complaints from people who feel unsafe driving on that road on rainy, dark nights as they dodge the potholes and the rough surfaces on that road. As I said before, it is vital that a commitment is given by this Minister in the near future to fund an upgrade of that road to a safe standard. The \$80,000 to be spent in November is nowhere near enough. I will again lobby the regional director to ensure that he is aware of the issues raised with me by motorists as far as safety on this road is concerned.

I have written to the Minister about this issue. I have made speeches in this Chamber. I have asked him two questions on notice. I have presented petitions to him through this Chamber. As is becoming the norm with this Minister, he does not seem to care too much. His response to correspondence is somewhat delayed by his inability, I think, to respond to issues of urgent need raised with me by my constituents regarding road issues and road safety.

Time expired.

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