



Speech by

DAVID DALGLEISH

MEMBER FOR HERVEY BAY

Hansard 11 April 2000

TRANSPORT LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Mr DALGLEISH (Hervey Bay—CCAQ) (12.37 p.m.): I treat the opportunity to speak in this House as a privilege, not a right. I welcome the opportunity to speak to this Transport Legislation Amendment Bill. I would like to speak about the Hervey Bay-Maryborough road. It has been seven years since the Labor Government stated publicly that the road would be upgraded to a dual-lane road in its five-year plan. Yes, that upgrade is now two years overdue. However, I am thankful to the Minister for the roadworks that have been carried out on this particular section of road, although it is nowhere near a dual-lane road. I imagine that, when the Minister visits my electorate, he travels by plane and from that height the potholes on the Hervey Bay-Maryborough road possibly do not look that big. However, let me assure the Minister that some of those potholes are only one shovelful short of a quarry.

Another issue that has arisen in my electorate, which has come about through some well-received infrastructure that was placed by the Beattie Labor Government, relates to student bus fares and bus passes. It appears that, now that a new State school has opened, if a child wishes to continue their education in the school at which they were enrolled originally, they will have to pay to travel the distance between the two schools. I believe that, owing to this decision, the families involved are being placed at a financial disadvantage. I urge the Minister to consider what has occurred in the past in my electorate. A similar situation arose regarding the Kawungan State School when it opened, and it had a satisfactory result. A special concession was made for those students whose bus travel was affected.

There is also the issue of Booral Road which, on various occasions, I have raised with the Minister, and even during the Estimates committee hearing. The Hervey Bay community was grateful for the token gesture of \$12,000 of funding for the urgent repairs required to this section of road. The problem is that the \$12,000 would not even pay to get the pothole truck to travel that section of road. I appreciate the changes to the speed limits and some vegetation clearing, but they are a long way off what is actually required to improve this piece of road to an acceptable level.

In the past, extensive funding from the State Government has been accepted gratefully. Upgrades to other sections of this very road were carried out, but they have only encouraged a far greater number of motorists to use this road, which serves as a ring-road for Hervey Bay. Hence, it has only inflamed the problem. This section of roadway caters for most of our tourists that travel out to the barges to travel to Fraser Island. We have a large number of inexperienced drivers driving four-wheel drives which are carrying large numbers of people. As the Minister is aware, accidents on this section of road are becoming more and more frequent, including backpacker vehicles and four-wheel drives.

I think that most issues have been covered. We have a lot of problems in Hervey Bay, but those are the major issues. They are very important to most of the people in my community and I wish that the Minister would take them seriously. Although they may seem only minor issues to him, they are very serious issues to us. I take this opportunity to thank him for taking those issues on board.
