



Speech by

## CHRISTINE SCOTT

### MEMBER FOR CHARTERS TOWERS

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Hansard 27 November 2001

#### TRANSPORT LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

**Mrs CHRISTINE SCOTT** (Charters Towers—ALP) (6.45 p.m.): I rise to speak on the Transport Legislation Amendment Bill 2001 and the amendments to the Tow Truck Act 1973 and the Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995 contained within that bill. The Tow Truck Act 1973 included a cumbersome and dated system whereby persons adversely affected by decisions of a delegate of the chief executive to refuse, suspend or cancel a licence issued under the act could only seek redress through an appeal tribunal. The appeal tribunal consists of a magistrate, an impartial officer of the Department of Transport and a person appointed by the minister from within the towing industry. The process of establishing an appeal tribunal can be administratively onerous and particularly time consuming. The current process of appealing against a decision is not consistent with the provisions of the Transport Planning and Coordination Act 1994.

The replacement provisions provide for the chief executive to review decisions adversely affecting a person at the request of that person. The person is entitled to be given reasons for the original decision. The review is to be carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Transport Planning and Coordination Act 1994. Once the review has been completed, the person is to be provided with the 'reviewed' decision together with reasons for that decision. If the person remains unsatisfied, the person may then have the matter heard in the Magistrates Court. The amendments propose to bring the act into line with other road transport legislation, in particular the appeal provisions contained within the Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995.

I wish to speak of the need for an upgrade to a sealed surface of a section of the Bowen Development Road from Mount Coolon to its intersection with the Gregory Development Road near the Belyando crossing. Mount Coolon is a tiny community situated 53 kilometres east of the Gregory Development Road and approximately 130 kilometres south west of Collinsville on the Bowen Development Road. It is vitally important to the people of the area that we upgrade the links between their isolated community and the major highways. These links are important for safety as well as for social and economic reasons, for getting our children to school and products to market—both in as good a condition as possible—and getting safely back home again from trips for shopping, medical treatment and the hundred other reasons we traverse the highways and byways each year.

The people who live in the Mount Coolon region are hardworking salt of the earth people and this area would benefit greatly from the increased traffic flow with its resultant economic benefits following an upgrade of the road. The road in its present state struggles with adequacy for the heavy livestock transports servicing the area, and the wear and tear on these transports is extensive as a result of the road conditions. I agree with the residents of the area that this road is of major importance to the social and economic growth of the region. The reasons for an upgrade to a sealed surface are legion. If it were upgraded it would serve the economic needs of the region to a far greater extent than is presently the case. This would enable more efficient transport of livestock and other commodities. People in the area deserve to be able to get to health and education services by being linked to the sealed Gregory Development Road. Safety for those who already use the road would be greatly enhanced as well as for new users encouraged by new bitumen.

In conjunction with the upgrading of the section from Mount Coolon to Collinsville the road would become an economic conduit for the entire region. If the road were bitumen, trucks from Bowen

would use the road more and take pressure off the coastal highways as well as providing an alternative route during the wet season. I look forward to our government sealing all the roads in my electorate in due course. I commend the Transport Legislation Amendment Bill to the House.

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