



Speech by

JEFF SEENEY

MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

Hansard 3 April 2001

KILKIVAN-TANSEY ROAD

Mr SEENEY (Callide—NPA) (6.58 p.m.): Tonight in this Adjournment debate I want to bring to the attention of this parliament an issue of long standing that is important to communities in the Central and North Burnett in my electorate. The issue is the deplorable state of the road from Kilkivan to Tansey. This is a relatively short stretch of road—only 21 kilometres—that is used by traffic from the Burnett Highway to gain access to the Bruce Highway at Gympie. It is a short piece of road that has a big impact on every Burnett community. It is the missing link that we all need replaced.

Over the years, as the Burnett Highway has been developed to four lanes more traffic has used the coastal route as far north as Gympie, whereas in previous years much of this traffic would have used the inland route. It is desirable for the traffic flow to change and, indeed, it is advantageous to car and truck traffic alike to take advantage of the freeway conditions on the Bruce Highway rather than battle the winding road through the many small towns of the South Burnett and the Brisbane Valley. The road users have voted with their feet or, more correctly in this case, with their wheels and the traffic volume on this road is heavy and is increasing. Private and commercial traffic travelling to and from Brisbane from Gayndah, Mundubbera, Eidsvold, Monto and Biloela all use this road.

At the moment, it is 21 kilometres of potential accidents waiting to happen. The road has numerous corners with poor visibility and poor road elevation. For most of its length it is single-lane bitumen—hardly wide enough for one car. The narrow road has very poor edge conditions that are constantly made worse by the heavy traffic volume. Undoubtedly, the worst feature is the notorious Tansey range road. It is three kilometres of unsealed road incorporating steep descents through hairpin bends where to meet oncoming heavy traffic is a nightmare. It is without doubt a result of poor planning that this road has remained in this unfortunate state while traffic volumes have increased so markedly because of the great improvements that have been made to the coastal road, the Bruce Highway, between Gympie and Brisbane.

Tonight in this parliament I call on the Minister for Transport to urgently address this issue, to correct this failure in the planning processes of his department, and to ensure that the dangerous, unacceptable situation on the Kilkivan to Tansey road is rectified. It is a problem that is impacting seriously on all the communities in the Central and North Burnett, as this road presents a deterrent to tourist traffic, is a cost impediment for commercial traffic and as well is a dangerous trap for unwary private motorists.

While the road is in the Kilkivan Shire, the main effects are felt by people living in the Central and North Burnett—all the shires from Gayndah through to Monto. It also has a profound effect on the locals who live along this road, as it is undoubtedly a local road that is being asked to carry major highway traffic. Any cursory drive along this road would convince any reasonable person of the need for action. A trip through there at night, in wet weather or at a time of peak, heavy traffic usage would frighten the bravest driver. It needs to be fixed, and it needs to be fixed now. It is frustrating for everyone involved that we have not been able to get it fixed through the normal processes. I acknowledge the efforts made by the previous member who had responsibility for this area, the now member for Nanango.

Time expired.