



Speech by

KAREN STRUTHERS

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

Hansard 30 May 2001

TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE AND ANOTHER ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Ms STRUTHERS (Algeria—ALP) (9.05 p.m.): The electorate of Algeria is a transport and economic hub of south-east Queensland. Many of the large transport carriers are located in my local area, as are many invaluable commercial and industrial activities. I am, therefore, always very interested in any new transport legislation. I support the minister in bringing these amendments before the House. The Honourable Steve Bredhauer is an astute minister and really has Queensland moving.

As a transport and economic hub, the Algeria electorate offers many job and economic growth opportunities. The down side is that, as a hive of commercial activity, my local area endures traffic congestion problems.

An opposition member: Where?

Ms STRUTHERS: Algeria, the economic and transport hub of south-east Queensland.

The Logan Motorway has provided a very useful bypass road, easing heavy vehicle and passenger vehicle traffic in the local area. As the Stapylton-Parkinson area develops into light industrial activity, that motorway is well positioned to be a national freight route, allowing good access to those activities.

I support the e-toll concept provided for in this bill to allow vehicles to pass through the toll plaza without much delay. It certainly will minimise the congestion that gathers there at peak time. It is opportune for me, however, to reiterate my concern that the Queensland government, in conjunction with Queensland Motorways Limited and trucking operators, must put their heads together and must get their collective wisdom organised to make sure that we look at more strategies to ensure that more heavy vehicles use the motorway than at the moment.

From reports I am getting from locals and from my own experience, it seems that many heavy vehicles are using local roads instead of the motorway. That was certainly shown in the freight destination study that was conducted about a year or so ago. Toll incentives and local management traffic planning—all those sorts of strategies—must be on the table for consideration. Local people in Forestdale, Pallara and Forest Lake are all reporting to me that heavy vehicles continue to use Forest Lake Boulevard, Ritchie Road and other local roads. The pick-up and destination paths of these vehicles may prohibit them from accessing the motorway, but every effort must be made to keep trucks to the major arterial transport routes rather than the local roads. I have raised this issue with the minister. He and his departmental officers always give me a good hearing. I welcome future action that eases traffic congestion on the south side of Brisbane.
