



Speech by

Mr N. ROBERTS

MEMBER FOR NUDGEES

Hansard 27 November 2001

TRANSPORT LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Mr NEIL ROBERTS (Nudgee—ALP) (9.26 p.m.): I want to make a few comments relating to issues of importance relating to transport matters in my electorate of Nudgee. A couple of weeks ago I joined with the member for Clayfield, the member for Stafford and members of the Citizens Reference Group and NOTION at Nundah to celebrate the first vehicles that went through the Nundah bypass tunnel. This was a \$45 million project which was completed under the responsibility of the current minister. It was a great celebration for the local community. It is a decades old problem that needed resolving. I acknowledge the work that was done by the former minister, Vaughan Johnson, but I still recall standing in the park with Jim Elder prior to the coalition government coming to power when he announced that the cut and cover tunnel would be established.

Mr Johnson: Let's face it, it's a great job.

Mr NEIL ROBERTS: It is a great job, and we are looking forward to the other lanes opening over the next week or so. We are also looking for some formal celebrations with the minister and the departmental officers some time early in the New Year. I want to take the time to particularly thank the community for its support and input into the project over many years. I will not name the individuals now because there are too many concerned, but I refer to those people who participated through NOTION, which is Nundah's Organisation To Improve Our Neighbourhood, and the Citizens' Reference Group. These people made tremendous sacrifices in terms of time and effort over many years to see this project come to fruition. I thank them sincerely for their efforts.

The recently released Roads Implementation Program contained a number of initiatives affecting the Nudgee electorate. One of the more significant was the planning study for the new river crossing adjacent to the Gateway Bridge. This is something that obviously needs addressing. The traffic on that particular portion of the road has reached capacity a lot earlier than expected. The impact on my electorate is essentially in the northern part of the study area, basically from the Nudgee Road exit back to Schultz Canal. This joins on to the neighbouring electorate of Clayfield which will also have a significant input into this issue. Most traffic on the Gateway Arterial road passes through the Nudgee electorate, although there are two major entry points at Toombul Road and Nudgee Road which carry significant levels of traffic both entering and exiting the Gateway Arterial road. This is a significant issue and is of great importance to a large section of my electorate.

The Department of Main Roads, through the planning study group, has distributed newsletters throughout quite a significant area seeking input. I will be encouraging my constituents, both residents and businesses, to provide feedback to the department on concerns that they have from the matters arising in that particular study. I commend the department on the consultation it undertakes and the information it provides to local communities. During the construction of the Nundah bypass tunnel the departmental officers responsible for the project regularly informed local residents of developments in the project. I thank them for that. I received copies of all newsletters in my electorate and they were very well put together and were very informative. I think they alleviated the concerns of many residents about the development.

A couple of other initiatives out of the roads implementation plan for the Nudgee electorate include a program for the installation of lighting on the Gateway Arterial road extending from Nundah Creek through to Telegraph Road, and also some major asphalt resurfacing from Garozzo Street to just

past Roghan Road on Sandgate Road. Two projects about which I am particularly excited under the Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme—TIDS—are for funding in the year 2002-03 for a pick-up and set-down area for Virginia State School and for Saint Flannan's Catholic School in Zillmere. An amount of \$40,000 for each school has been earmarked for those programs. Under the TIDS program, a joint subsidy is provided by the Brisbane City Council of an equal amount. I look forward to the implementation of those two programs in the next couple of years. One project currently under way which is being very well received in the Boondall community is a car park and drop-off zone about to be constructed at Boondall State School.

I want to say a few brief words about some railway network upgrades in my electorate. The Nudgee electorate has a good rail service with branch lines from both the north coast and the Sandgate-Shorncliffe line. There are also a number of upgrades planned to improve the amenity and accessibility of stations in my electorate. There has been a significant investment by Queensland Rail to install lifts at the Nundah Railway Station. There were major upgrades last year to the Sunshine Railway Station such as car parking, security and new station buildings and platform. The building of the third track at the Geebung Railway Station did cause a small issue due to the reduction in the number of car parks. That is an issue I have taken up with Queensland Rail on a number of occasions. Hopefully some time in the future we will be able to increase the number of car parks at Geebung.

The final matter I want to commend Queensland Rail on is the decision to install a pedestrian level crossing at Nudgee Railway Station. It recently did some upgrade works to the car park, including a drop-off zone. This is one of the oldest stations in Brisbane. It is not the most patronised but is an important one, because a number of people with disabilities use that station. I pat Queensland Rail on the back for this decision. Some months ago a number of people who visited a residence in Nudgee were wheelchair bound. They had to travel all the way to Shorncliffe and get back on the train towards the city to visit a particular service centre where they were receiving care and recreation. The installation of the pedestrian level crossing will be of great benefit to not only those people but also the many elderly people in the area who use the station. With those few words, I commend the bill to the House.
