



Speech by

RACHEL NOLAN

MEMBER FOR IPSWICH

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IPSWICH MOTORWAY

Ms NOLAN (Ipswich—ALP) (11.04 p.m.): Today there were delays for hours on the Ipswich Motorway after a truck rolled, spilling its load across the centre barrier and blocking two of the four lanes. The accident happened before lunch, but commuters were delayed even in the evening while emergency crews cleaned up the mess. It was the second time such an accident had occurred this week. On Monday morning a semi-trailer rolled on the Ipswich Motorway at Dinmore, spilling its load and causing delays for most of the day. That rollover happened just 100 metres from the scene of an accident where three people were killed two years ago.

The Ipswich Motorway is used by 85,000 vehicles a day, and in the last five years there have been 915 accidents and 10 fatalities on it. Every morning tow trucks park by the side of the road at Goodna waiting for the accidents to happen. The road affects the quality of life of Ipswich people. Driving on a potholed and dangerous road where traffic merges from the right, sitting in a traffic jam when you are still 30 kilometres from the centre of Brisbane and knowing that some days you will have the big hold-up that makes you hours late for work is stressful. The road hinders our economic development and it hinders our population growth as people are less likely to move to Ipswich and commute when the road is in such a bad state.

The Ipswich Motorway is a federally funded road, but when asked on Sunday about future funding for it, our nearest government MP, Cameron Thompson, said calls for further funding were unnecessary as the federal government had committed \$64 million to the project. I do not want to reject that money; after all, \$64 million is better than a kick in the teeth, but it hardly makes calls to fix the road unnecessary. Having spoken a few days ago to the planners who are looking at the road's future, I think it is clear that the \$64 million may fix up some of the dangerous right-hand merges at the Logan Motorway intersection, but it will not fix the road.

Ipswich people need a major upgrade of the road to six lanes from Rocklea to Dinmore, removal of all the right-hand merges, better local transport links around suburbs such as Goodna and Riverview so that people travelling between those suburbs can avoid the motorway and the development of alternative routes, particularly in the south-west. The Beattie government and the Ipswich City Council are doing their bit. The state is in the process of planning a south-west transport corridor, and the council has indicated its willingness to provide those local links. We need a clear funding commitment from the federal government.

Ipswich people remember that, during the early 1990s when there were Labor governments at the state and federal levels, the road was significantly upgraded from an arterial road to a major motorway. In contrast, the Howard government's record on this road is abominable. Since John Howard was elected in 1996 on a fraudulent platform of representing the kind of battlers who use the road, there have been no major improvements. This year, however, the federal government has allocated more than \$1.5 billion for roads in shaky National Party electorates. I read earlier today that its biggest election promise so far was \$225 million for the Scoresby Freeway in Victoria.

Time expired.
