



Speech by

**CHRIS CUMMINS**

**MEMBER FOR KAWANA**

---

Hansard 8 May 2002

### **TRANSPORT LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

**Mr CUMMINS** (Kawana—ALP) (3.58 p.m.): I rise to speak to the Transport Legislation Amendment Bill. As I follow my good friend the member for Bulimba I will mention that Aeroflot, Garuda and Air India have given me some very exciting travels. I do know what he means when he speaks about Aeroflot.

The Transport Operations (Marine Pollution) Act 1995 is amended by the bill before us to improve the management of ship-sourced sewage and make pollution insurance compulsory. The principal objective of this act is to protect Queensland's marine and coastal environment from deliberate discharges of pollution into coastal waters. My electorate of Kawana covers half of one side of the Mooloolaba-Kawana harbour, and the Mooloolah River is seriously affected by discharge of sewage. I fully support the legislation that will, I believe, clean up our river system. I have also taken the matter up with the Minister for Environment to ensure that the Kawana treatment plant located upstream is less likely to discharge sewage into the Mooloolah River, as it did some five years ago.

We have raised the bar in relation to the ability to discharge pollution into that river, which is a positive for both residents and businesses alike in my electorate. This act is also to be amended to more effectively regulate the discharge of sewage from ships, providing greater protection of Queensland waterways and for waterway users. We will obviously see an increase of pump-out facilities along with the growth of the marine industry as more and more people buy boats for recreational purposes. I also make mention of the support that I and the Beattie Labor government have received for the CAMOS rail corridor identified on the Sunshine Coast. I believe that there was a promise from our federal coalition members prior to the last election, but I can remember that a federal Labor government under the Building Better Cities program came up with funds to assist the Gold Coast railway. When SunTrain gets some federal funding, I eagerly await an improved system for the Sunshine Coast.

These amendments will also reduce the amount of ship-sourced sewage being discharged into coastal waters and so reduce the likelihood of any environmental or negative health impacts. The amendments will aid in the protection of water quality enjoyed by boat owners, fishers and the community of Kawana. The proposed amendments will apply to all ships in Queensland coastal waters and will allow for the prescribing of the areas where sewage cannot be discharged, such as marinas, boat harbours, rivers, estuaries, the Great Barrier Reef or in the vicinity of environmentally friendly sites, such as oyster beds. It will also allow for the prescribing of on-board sewage treatment systems including holding tanks, on-board sanitation devices and portable toilets. It also allows for the prescribing of special requirements for ships with large numbers of persons on board or ships that frequent sensitive areas, and the need to report incidents of sewage discharge.

I compliment the minister and his department for introducing to my electorate a new university rail bus, as we refer to it, which links Maroochydore through to Mooloolaba, Mountain Creek and Sippy Downs to the Landsborough Railway Station. Instead of having to go north, people now go south to get the train, which is where the majority of people come from. Now that the university is becoming very popular and, as a result, is experiencing parking problems, university students are utilising that service very well. It was a very proactive thing that the minister's department and this government did. I commend the relevant people involved. I also make mention that the principal objective of this act is to

protect Queensland's marine and coastal environment by minimising deliberate and negligent discharges of ship-sourced pollution into coastal waters.

In recent weeks the Beattie Labor government has announced a \$17 million arterial link that will ease congestion for Sunshine Coast motorists. Tenders are to be called for the \$17 million link between the congested Nicklin Way and the Sunshine Motorway. The four-kilometre, two-lane Kawana arterial road will be ready to drive on by the end of next year. It will take pressure off the northern end of the Nicklin Way, which sees up to 48,000 cars come through it every day at Minyama. That is where my office is, so I can guarantee members that night and day it is a very busy area. The Kawana arterial proposal is about to become a reality with this call for tenders. The road will help offset the increased traffic from Kawana's expanding population, which is expected to grow from 20,000 to approximately 40,000 people by the year 2015.

The road will initially divert up to 8,000 vehicles a day off the northern end of the Nicklin Way and construction will be a two-stage project. The first stage will be a four-span pre-stressed concrete bridge over the Mooloolah River and link the road from the river west to the motorway. The second stage will see the new interchange built to join the Kawana arterial to the motorway, halfway between Mountain Creek and Sippy Downs in the electorate of Kawana. The Nicklin Way intersection with Kawana Island Boulevard, formerly known as Aquatic Drive, at Warana will also be upgraded to provide an entry point for arterial traffic. The Kawana arterial is expected to be hugely popular with Sunshine Coast residents, with Main Roads initially expecting 8,000 cars a day to be driven on this new road. I think this is a figure that will be reached quite easily.

The Beattie state Labor government is also about to spend \$1 million on a consultation study with the public and relevant local councils regarding future improvements to the Sunshine Coast Motorway. Letterbox drops and public meetings will provide information and the opportunity for constituents to give feedback to both the local member and the department. As the minister realises, the Sunshine Coast at present does not have a four-lane link between the coast and the Bruce Highway.

I also thank the minister for giving serious consideration to some proposed intersection improvements, possibly traffic lights, where the Sunshine Coast Motorway off-ramp meets Sippy Downs Drive near Chancellor Park at Tanawha. Motorists near the university often find that they face serious traffic problems near the old Bruce Highway, which is now a tourist route, including the Super Bee area. Obviously it is around the peak times from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. that residents commuting to and from school and the university experience major difficulties. I have met with members of the Department of Main Roads, and Maroochy Shire Council's Planning Chairman, Councillor Hermann Schwabe, has agreed to be a partner in making sure that we get it right.

As the minister knows, some \$1 million was set aside to be spent on planning and consulting for the design and upgrades due in coming years for the Sunshine Coast Motorway. In the meantime, we will look to address ways of how we can ease this congestion. At present, motorists exiting the motorway have to travel to Kirby Court or Crosby Hill Road and do a U-turn as they often cannot cross Sippy Downs Drive. I hope that we may be able to identify some funding to ensure improvements are made and possibly an improvement to the off-ramp next to the palm farm.

In closing, I also want to make mention of the Nicklin Way and the outdated vegetation that was foolishly planted by conservative local councils. Melaleucas, or paperbarks as they are commonly known, were chosen at the whim of a councillor and everyone realises that this variety of tree is not suited for roadways. It is suited for swampy marsh areas, not residential areas. Footpaths are continually damaged along with kerbing, channelling and drain infrastructure—major costs to both local government and Main Roads. The root system of these paperbarks or melaleucas grows very thick in search of water. The same councillor unfortunately planted cocos palms down the middle of the Nicklin Way. Again, the short-sightedness and penny pinching of this councillor saw inappropriate seconds being purchased. So years later we can see that these stunted palms are an eyesore. Many people have commented to me about them. I am aware that the local developer may be willing to financially assist with the Caloundra City Council in replacing these cocos palms. I will take it to my community to see if they agree with an upgrade of more appropriate vegetation and the possible removal of the cocos palms. I commend the minister for the work he has done and will be doing in the Kawana electorate. I commend this bill to the House.

---