



Speech by

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MEMBER FOR KAWANA

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SUNSHINE COAST ROADWORKS

Mr CUMMINS (Kawana—ALP) (12.16 p.m.): Sunshine Coast residents deserve praise for showing patience during the ongoing roadworks that we are experiencing on the Sunshine Motorway. Just a few kilometres west of Mountain Creek-Mooloolaba, extensive roadworks are under way constructing an interchange that will service the new Kawana arterial way that will border the northern side of the Mooloolah River National Park. The new Kawana arterial way will be delivered on time and funded by the Beattie state government and Lensworth Kawana Waters, the local developer.

The installation of bridge girders above the motorway was undertaken late on week nights to minimise the disruption to motorway traffic flow. The Maroochy Shire Council has also been active in constructing the Maroochydhore southern access road. This is a local government road that will link into the key regional centre of Maroochydhore, easing the traffic congestion that is being experienced on the present road network.

Sunshine Coast residents hold improvements to road infrastructure as a high priority. Prior to the last state election, negative conservative critics claimed that a Beattie Labor government would not fund and deliver on time the Kawana arterial road. They were wrong on both counts. Premier Peter Beattie and the Main Roads Minister have acknowledged that further funding for much-needed road infrastructure improvements can be accessed while the Sunshine Motorway SM2032 study is under way. The SM2032 study covers a 17-kilometre section of the Sunshine Coast Motorway from the Bruce Highway at Sippy Downs to the Maroochy River. To deliver the greatest benefits to the community, we must plan the Sunshine Motorway in line with the coast's rate of growth and address issues including congestion, access, the environment and safety. The study is looking at how we can effectively integrate the motorway with the existing road network, future roads and other transport modes.

A key part of the study is to determine what upgrades to the motorway are needed and suggest how best they can be done. Community input to the SM2032 study is very important and proper planning is necessary, because, as it is said, failing to plan is planning to fail. The SM2032 study is close to completion and, sadly, has not been assisted by misleading comments by some local council solicitors. The Sunshine Coast community does not appreciate being lied to by Liberal councillors in both the Maroochy Council and the Caloundra City Council, who muddy the waters by giving ongoing misinformation.

Prior to being elected to state government I was an elected councillor in Caloundra City Council. I believed then, as I believe now, that residents deserve the truth. In the lead-up to the March 2004 elections local government councillors should stand on what they have delivered, not state government issues. If councillors have failed to deliver to their constituents, we will obviously see them commenting on state issues. Sadly, it is impossible to see elected government councillors who have failed in Liberal Party preselection in the same room with the truth. The saying 'you can't fool all the people all the time' is very apt.

In closing, I outline the disarray in which the Liberal-National state opposition finds itself on road funding issues. I note the presence in the House of the member for Gregory. In a media release of 4 August 2003 the member for Gregory is quoted as saying that a National-Liberal coalition would reprioritise the Roads Implementation Program to give higher priority to the Sunshine Coast. Yet the Leader of the Opposition said in the *Toowoomba Chronicle* of 31 March 2003 that the second range

crossing was a must, that the National Party supported it absolutely and that he would not want to see any road upgrade at the expense of another.

Sadly, prior to the last state election we heard promises from the opposition that it would fund the Maroochy access road. We also heard that if the Beattie government was elected it would reintroduce toll roads on the Sunshine Coast. Both of those statements are wrong. I hope that in the lead-up to both council and state elections conservative candidates can eventually find how to tell the truth.