



Speech by

**KAREN STRUTHERS**

**MEMBER FOR ALGESTER**

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Hansard 3 April 2003

**BRISBANE URBAN CORRIDOR STUDY**

**Ms STRUTHERS** (Algeria—ALP) (7.10 p.m.): The Howard federal government is the highest taxing government Australia has ever seen. The public could rightly expect their taxes would equal better services. We are being duped. Medicare and bulk-billing are under threat, education funding is not keeping pace with demand, and in Queensland alone taxpayers have shouldered the burden of a \$57 million shortfall in federal government road funding in the past year. In my area, the public is enduring severe traffic congestion and noise due largely to the failure of the federal government to fund urgent road improvements on the National Highway route along the Ipswich Motorway through to Mount Gravatt-Capalaba Road.

However, the opportunity for redemption for the federal government is now available. The joint federal-state Brisbane urban corridor study involved extensive public input and has offered many constructive recommendations to improve the Brisbane south-side road network. I know that the state Transport Minister, Steve Bredhauer, is taking the recommendations of this BUC study very seriously. I urge the federal minister, John Anderson, and his colleague Gary Hardgrave, the member for Moreton, to also go in to bat for local residents and find the dollars that are needed to fix these major problems on the National Highway.

Local residents have put a lot of thought, goodwill and effort into the BUC study. I commend their efforts, I commend Phil Stay and other members of the Main Roads Department for their great efforts. I also commend Jan Taylor and other consultants involved in the BUC study. It has been a great effort and a great model for other departments to follow. A welcome recommendation of the BUC study, particularly for the residents of Forestdale, is a trial allowing trucks to travel free between 10.00 p.m. to 5.00 a.m. on the Logan Motorway and Gateway Motorway extension. I have supported calls for toll reductions for heavy vehicles to get them off the Ipswich Motorway and local roads and onto the Logan Motorway.

It is a bit rich for MPs such as Gary Hardgrave to expect Queensland taxpayers to foot the \$800 million-plus bill to remove the Logan Motorway toll completely. The Queensland taxpayer is still paying the \$200 million or more price tag resulting from Joan Sheldon's removal of the Sunshine Coast toll. The residents certainly want all levels of government working cooperatively to fix the south-side traffic problems. Public patience is wearing thin with the all talk and no action federal minister for Moreton and his ministerial colleague John Anderson.