



Speech by

Miss FIONA SIMPSON

MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE

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PACIFIC PARADISE BYPASS

Miss SIMPSON (Maroochydore—NPA) (5.50 p.m.): A welcome announcement from the state government during the election campaign was its promise to fund a \$35 million Pacific Paradise bypass and new interchanges on the Sunshine Motorway on the Maroochy north shore. This is an issue which I have pursued with the government since I won the agreement of previous Main Roads Minister Vaughan Johnson to instigate a study to create a new Pacific Paradise road network. While it took his successor, Steve Bredhauer, six years to complete this study—and we are still waiting for the full details to be publicly released—I was delighted when the state government matched my commitment and the commitment of the Leader of the National Party during the election campaign to upgrade this road network to the north. In the last five days of the campaign the Deputy Premier announced that the work would occur at a cost of \$35 million, and I will be holding him to that promise.

However, more needs to be done to unlock the gridlock on our roads. If the Sunshine Motorway bridge over the Maroochy River is not duplicated there will still be traffic jams several times a day, seven days a week. The bridge's duplication is not in the forward funding program, which we know is the Roads Implementation Program, and it was not announced during the election campaign or as part of the Smart State Infrastructure Fund. If it does not commence within the next two years a bad situation will become disastrous.

Already 30,000 vehicles a day cross this bridge and I understand that duplication of roadworks is required at about 22,000 vehicles per day. So we have a bridge which is already carrying far in excess of what is estimated to be the ideal ratio of vehicles.

But the Beattie Labor government chopped some \$250 million from the base funding for Main Roads five years ago, and this has had a significant impact upon the road networks of Queensland, particularly in the growth areas, particularly in areas such as the Sunshine Coast, where we have seen quite rapid growth in population. There does need to be good planning of roads, but that seems to be all that this government has been doing in the last few years—planning roads and not building them. My commitment is to focusing this government on actually building the roads, not putting in place further road studies that can take five to six years before we see desperately needed infrastructure, which is not only about moving people and moving businesses but also about saving lives and protecting people from what has been a situation of deteriorating roads on the Sunshine Coast.