



Speech by

Mark McArdle

MEMBER FOR CALOUNDRA

Hansard Thursday, 11 November 2004

STATE INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr McARDLE (Caloundra—Lib) (10.28 a.m.): In the State Infrastructure Plan 2003-04, there are a number of issues listed as impacting on future infrastructure planning. The first is—

Impact of population growth in south-east Queensland and increasing pressures on urban sprawl, transport and availability of industrial and future transport corridors.

Population growth is a given in the south-east Queensland region, and nowhere is this clearer than on the Sunshine Coast. The government has recently announced funding for a number of roads across Caloundra which impact directly on the economic viability of the region, including the Caloundra Road upgrade to four lanes by 2008-09 and the multimodal corridor linking to Caloundra Road by 2007-08.

Caloundra Road cannot, at this point in time, take heavy duty vehicles en masse, nor will it do so without the required infrastructure being put in place. The Caloundra commercial and industrial precinct is one area on the Sunshine Coast which allows for industrial development having a direct impact on the economy and on many of the social issues facing people in the region.

The requirement to move the planning forward, upgrading Caloundra Road and linking the multimodal corridor to Caloundra Road, must be considered an economic essential to the region, not just to Caloundra. So much depends upon the diversity of an economy in an area to sustain the region and its population. The government must rethink this question and bring forward the completion dates for the construction of both roads to 2007.

Time expired.