



Speech by

Mike Horan

MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH

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GORE HIGHWAY

Mr HORAN (Toowoomba South—NPA) (9.23 p.m.): I rise tonight to speak about the dangers of the Gore Highway running west from Toowoomba, the number of fatal accidents that have occurred on that highway and the need for some improvement, particularly to the access roads to that highway. There was another fatal accident on the Gore Highway on Sunday, 22 August, where Wyreema Road joins the highway.

People in the area are getting extremely concerned, particularly because of the increasing numbers of people who are living just to the south-west of Toowoomba, around the Westbrook area, in the Wyreema area and along the Gore Highway leading out past Southbrook and Pittsworth. A lot of people are starting to live there and travel into Toowoomba. There is a whole network of school buses for both primary and secondary schools that operate through that area—going into the Drayton school and into the secondary schools of Toowoomba. A number of students also travel to the USQ, which is located in the south-western corner of Toowoomba.

I would like the Minister for Transport to take note of what I have to say today. I have been contacted by a number of constituents. One constituent in particular has talked about the fact that when that highway from Toowoomba to Millmerran was constructed inadequate work was done on a number of the approach roads and intersection roads. Some of these junctions have since been upgraded or corrected, but there remain too many that are inadequate and dangerous junctions.

The particular one I am speaking about tonight is where vehicles exit from Wyreema Road to the highway. When looking to the western side visibility is poor and restricted due to the curve on the side of the hill. It is a Y-shaped junction. If taking the eastern arm to turn towards Toowoomba, looking left to check for traffic also requires looking back over the shoulder. My constituent has written to me and told me of this.

My constituent also says that for vehicles travelling south-west from Toowoomba and exiting the highway to Wyreema Road there is not a suitable slip lane for traffic to move off the highway and prepare for the left turn. This causes disruption to the following traffic flow. There are also other problems with vehicles travelling towards Toowoomba, particularly visibility at the Wyreema Road junction, which is very poor.

I refer to the second range crossing, which has been mooted for some time. The federal government has put some \$30 million into this project already to purchase properties in the corridor and do the detailed plans. It is a road that has to be constructed by the federal government. It will take an enormous load off Toowoomba itself, particularly James Street, the main east-west road of Toowoomba. Thousands of B doubles travel that road every day. It is the heaviest freight carrying road of Australia. It has 16 sets of traffic lights. Then as the B doubles go south-west towards Melbourne, they go out to the Gore Highway through these populated areas. I call on the Minister for Transport to do what he can to fix this problem.