



Speech by

Fiona Simpson

MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE

Hansard Wednesday, 9 November 2005

MAROOCHY NORTH SHORE PETITION

Miss SIMPSON (Maroochydore—NPA) (10.14 pm): I wish to congratulate the 3,694 Sunshine Coast residents who got behind a Maroochy North Shore petition I organised that calls on the state government to fast-track the upgrade of Pacific Paradise's most dangerous intersection near the supermarket. This week I tabled the paper petition in parliament containing 3,123 signatures and an electronic petition containing 289 signatures after launching it only a month ago with community members. In accordance with parliamentary procedures, I now wish to table a further 282 signatures that were not in a conforming format.

The petition calls on the main roads minister to urgently bring forward planned road upgrades to realign the intersection of Menzies Drive, David Low Way and Mudjimba Beach Drive, and provide for dedicated turning lanes with work beginning in 2006-07 instead of 2008-09. The paper and electronic petition was sponsored by Marlene Kear. A large number of people in the community helped her to gather signatures and distribute the petitions through local shops.

Main Roads has already begun work to redesign the realignment and acquire property affected by the realignment of the intersection, but the funding for construction is still in the 2008-09 period, which is too far away. I am urging the main roads minister, Paul Lucas, to listen to these very strong community concerns about this most dangerous intersection and to act by bringing the works forward.

I am also renewing my calls for traffic lights on the intersection of Ocean Drive and David Low Way to help right-turning traffic from Twin Waters, and also for minor upgrade works to the lanes between the roundabout and the intersection.

Lend Lease has been helpful in advising what its requirements are under development agreements for road contributions on the Maroochy North Shore. But, strangely, the main roads minister and the department have been deliberately obstructionist in regard to releasing critical information. When I asked the minister for the breakdown of how the \$450,000 of Twin Waters development contributions had specifically been spent, he wrote back refusing to release this information and instead referred me to freedom of information laws. The department then advised me in writing that if I wanted information on the development contributions and how they had been spent it would cost me \$900.

In contrast, Lend Lease has said that it has been told that the money is in trust with the Department of Main Roads. So why is there the secrecy with the minister's office and the department, particularly given the fact that they are charged with making these infrastructure agreements and also overseeing their implementation? These agreements between government and developers should not be secret. All road infrastructure agreements between the state government and developers should no longer be hidden from public scrutiny.

I have letters on file from the main roads minister, Paul Lucas, and the department proving that I am correct in what I am saying about the Beattie government's refusal to release the agreements for Maroochy North Shore works except if I paid \$900. That is wrong. That is arrogance and bullying on the part of this government, which is known for its secrecy.