



Speech by

Fiona Simpson

MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE

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LOCAL ROADS

Miss SIMPSON (Maroochydore—NPA) (4.32 pm): I rise to speak about some local road issues. As members know, in growth areas, roads and gridlock represent a great impact upon people's quality of life and their ability to do business in an efficient way. Now, as the cost of fuel increases, the gridlock on our roads becomes even more critical as people sit in traffic, burning up fuel and going nowhere.

I am grateful that this government has finally allocated some significant funding to my electorate. Some \$270 million is to be spent on the duplication of the Maroochy River bridge, the Pacific Paradise bypass and the Maroochydore Road upgrade over the next four years. However, I am disappointed—and I wish to bring this to the transport minister's attention—that some of the design options that are being chosen are short-sighted in that they do not provide a 20-year design time horizon to cope with the traffic within their construction life. I believe that that is wrong.

It is unfortunate that funding has not been provided for the Maroochydore Road upgrade at the intersection of Pike Street and Hobbs Road. The planning for an overpass has been done, but the funding has not been provided. Even though this section of Maroochydore Road will have additional capacity for traffic after the upgrade, the fact that the overpass has not been included within this raft of works means that this intersection will potentially be redundant within about eight years, with significant congestion occurring only eight years after the reconstruction of this intersection. To me, that is dumb and that is bad planning. Additional funding would certainly deal with issues of redundant work, would certainly be more cost effective in the long run and would get it right the first time.

I also wish to again bring to the attention of the House the problem of the Pacific Paradise intersection at Menzies Drive, David Low Way and Mudjimba Beach Road, which is a dogleg intersection. People travel between a primary school, a shopping centre, a child-care facility and sporting facilities through a dogleg across a main road. It is dangerous and unsatisfactory.

I urge the transport minister to listen to the people and bring this work forward. The department has been doing the design work. It is in the Roads Implementation Plan for 2008-09, but it really needs to be brought forward into the next financial year. As it is now, I am fearful that the children who travel through this intersection will get hurt. To date, vehicles have been damaged and children have run the risk of being injured. However, the longer the delay and with an increase in traffic, that risk will grow.