



Speech by

## John-Paul Langbroek

**MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE**

Hansard Tuesday, 29 November 2005

---

### TRANSPORT AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

**Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—Lib) (5.59 pm): I rise to support the Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, although I trust that government members will be supporting the amendments to be moved by the member for Chatsworth to ensure that this bill presents an even better deal for Queensland motorists. We are growing in Queensland, with a new Queenslanders every few minutes. I note that we are soon to welcome our four millionth Queenslanders. This means that we have to be visionary with regard to transport and infrastructure policy.

There is most definitely cause for concern when it comes to the Beattie government and its track record. The member for Chatsworth canvassed at length the myopic nature of this government's attitude towards transport policy as a whole but specifically to the Gateway Motorway. As one of the most important transport corridors in south-east Queensland, we have seen it relegated under this government to the absolute back of the queue. Nothing highlights this more than the Tugun bypass—one of the issues that helped to elect my colleague the member for Currumbin. I was just looking at the Roads Implementation Program, which shows that the lack of expenditure over the last year has meant that it will not be constructed until 2009-10. I see that there is a generalised amount of \$169 million quoted for the last three financial years up to 2009-10, which means that the people of the southern Gold Coast will be waiting and waiting.

The bill proposes to change the nature of reporting to parliament by the transport minister in relation to public-private partnerships. While PPPs can be advantageous in terms of saving tax dollars, the accountability of the government and organisations it is working with to this parliament is paramount. While I would like to think that the government would execute all partnerships with private companies honestly and with the taxpayer in mind, it is important that as much information as possible about projects that have been entered into by the elected government of the day is subjected to the scrutiny of the parliament. An example would be the Goodwill Bridge, which was originally supposed to cost \$13 million and which blew out to \$30 million. It is important that in circumstances such as the Goodwill Bridge our taxpayers can be assured that important information in relation to the agreement made as part of the PPP will be tabled by the minister instead of just a summary, as is proposed by this bill, which could gloss over important facts.

May I also add my support for an aspect of tolling that the member for Chatsworth touched on, and that was the proposal of congestion based tolling. I believe it would be a good way of ensuring that road users prioritise when using roads and thus help the infrastructure in our state cope with future demand. It is certainly something which the community needs to be consulted about first, but it is worth consideration.

The member for Chatsworth outlined the great decay that has occurred in terms of spending on capital works in the Main Roads and Transport budgets from 1998-99 to last year. We are constantly bombarded with the terrible news of road deaths in Queensland and yet the government is letting the Main Roads and Transport capital works budget stagnate. It is marked stagnation, too, with investment in capital projects as part of the Transport and Main Roads budget going from 45 per cent of the budget in 1998-99 to just 31 per cent last year.

As I have said from the outset, as elected members we have a duty to our constituents to ensure that they know as much as possible about decisions affecting them, their road transportation system and their tax dollars. So I urge the Australian Labor Party to support the amendments proposed by the member for Chatsworth to ensure a more transparent system in Queensland when it comes to PPPs and toll roads.