



Speech by

Michael Caltabiano

MEMBER FOR CHATSWORTH

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CHATSWORTH ELECTORATE, TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr CALTABIANO (Chatsworth—Lib) (5.01 pm): Throughout Queensland there are numerous newly developing areas that, despite their massive growth, are in desperate need of state funded infrastructure support. The electorate of Chatsworth is a very good example of such an area. The arterial road network throughout the electorate has not kept pace with the rapid residential development, particularly in the suburbs of Wakerley, Wynnum West and Manly West. Of prime concern in this area is Manly Road between Wondall Road and Green Camp Road.

Over the past 10 years the population of the south-eastern suburbs in and around Carindale has grown by approximately 30 per cent, with Chatsworth being one of the fastest growing electorates in south-east Queensland. With many wonderful residential developments and communities in the suburbs north and south of Manly Road, many thousands of new residents and hundreds of young families are moving here and building new homes. This increase in residents in the area has brought with it a need for upgraded infrastructure.

On Thursday, 16 February I spoke in this place about the need for a new school in this same area to address the growth and demand for state funded education. Today, I wish to speak about the importance of upgrading arterial road networks to address the same issue. The maintenance and upgrading of Manly Road is primarily the responsibility of the Brisbane City Council. However, it is important that, as a state, when we welcome the 60,000 new residents to Queensland each year we assist local governments statewide to build the infrastructure to support their growing populations.

The current state Labor government's South East Queensland Regional Plan earmarks this area of the Chatsworth electorate as part of the urban footprint that is ready for growth and change—something that requires state support. Many local residents from these areas have been telling me of their deep concerns in relation to entering and exiting Manly Road, particularly residents in the Lockwood Crescent area and those living off Arenga Street in Wakerley.

In response to these residents I have had discussions with the Brisbane City Council Lord Mayor, Campbell Newman, who shares the concerns raised by residents about the tremendous lack of planning Brisbane has seen under former failed Labor Party regimes. Year after year there was not enough planning for growth: the infrastructure budget was cut, roads were not built, parks were not upgraded and the congestion continued to get worse.

I will be making submissions to the Lord Mayor as part of his deliberations for formulating the 2006-07 budget to make provisions for upgrading this dangerous section of Manly Road. I also urge the transport minister to make similar funding available to the Brisbane City Council and to share the cost of providing this necessary road infrastructure.

One of the many failures of the current government is a failure to plan for growth despite encouraging it. The transport minister constantly bleats about the federal government needing to assist and share in the cost of building and upgrading state owned roads due to growth. It is now time for the state to share the responsibility for Manly Road with the council. As the state member for Chatsworth I am committed to ensuring that the government hears my constituents. This is one of the major concerns of my constituents who are living in residential developments off Manly Road. I will continue to campaign for this road to be upgraded.