



Speech by

Ronan Lee

MEMBER FOR INDOOROOPILLY

Hansard Wednesday, 10 May 2006

INDOOROOPILLY ELECTORATE, TRANSPORT

Mr LEE (Indooroopilly—ALP) (10.13 pm): I am a passionate advocate for more government spending on transport, especially public transport. I believe the western suburbs have been shamefully underresourced by governments over a great number of years to deal with the transport problems associated with our growing population. I am delighted that this state government has funded major projects in my electorate like the Indooroopilly Railway Station upgrade. It has funded huge numbers of TransLink projects like upgrades to bus stations and more bus services for the western suburbs.

But we need to do more for the western suburbs. The Brisbane City Council, as the responsible level of government for all the roads through my electorate, has a significant role to play. Peak hour in the electorate of Indooroopilly is often a disastrous experience for commuters driving to work or to drop off children at school. We need significant road solutions and we need them now.

But the only thing that is worse than the council coming up with no proposals is when it comes up with bad proposals. I am terrified of what some Brisbane City Council proposals could mean for my community. I would like to register my opposition to Campbell Newman's plans to force motorists to pay a toll by funnelling traffic onto the Hale Street toll bridge and causing major disruptions to Coronation Drive.

The Lord Mayor's plans would see the construction of the Hale Street toll bridge cause lengthy disruptions on Coronation Drive during the construction of the bridge. A no right hand turn from Coronation Drive onto the William Jolly Bridge to access Grey Street with lane closures would force motorists onto the toll bridge. This is an unfair traffic funnel. It is unfair for my constituents. They would be the worst affected by these terrible proposals.

Campbell Newman said on 4BC radio on 31 March 2006 that 'there is a funnelling effect'. This is an admission by the Lord Mayor that the plans for the Hale Street toll bridge would funnel my constituents onto that road off Coronation Drive so that they can fund his underfunded toll bridge. It is unfair to my constituents and it will not solve our traffic problems.

The Brisbane City Council needs to address major bottlenecks in the electorate of Indooroopilly like the intersection of Riverview Terrace and Coonan Street, like the place where the traffic from Honour Avenue merges with the traffic from Oxley Road as they access the Walter Taylor Bridge. The Brisbane City Council needs to actually take some time to address the mess that is Moggill Road and not do silly things like undertake major traffic works on weekdays but not on weekends when the roads are less busy. I am determined to fight against any proposals that will cause my constituents who are driving to work or dropping their kids to school or to sporting events to be funnelled onto a toll bridge. It is unfair to my constituents and it is unfair to residents in the western suburbs.