



Speech by

**Shane Knuth**

**MEMBER FOR CHARTERS TOWERS**

Hansard Thursday, 10 August 2006

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## **APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL (ESTIMATES COMMITTEE C)**

**Mr KNUTH** (Charters Towers—NPA) (11.47 am): In speaking to the estimates report in relation to Transport, I want to raise a serious issue in relation to the shocking state of the Clermont-Alpha-Tambo road and the lack of funding provided in this budget. For more than 20 years residents of the mining and rural communities have lobbied governments to completely seal this road, but these pleas have fallen on deaf ears. In the last 10 years numerous accidents have been reported and at least 12 accidents have involved government employees attempting to do their jobs. One constituent involved in an accident 25 years ago stated that after all these years the condition of the road is worse than it has ever been, yet traffic has increased and it is a frightening experience when passing triples on the highway. Every day students attending the Mistake Creek State School travel in excess of 100 kilometres each day on a road that even seasoned travellers decline to use. Their safety is in jeopardy and should be of the utmost priority.

The road is deeply rutted with loose stones and pebbles and any slight veering will see a car end up down an embankment or into a tree. There are quite a number of families with young children living along the road who travel it each day. This is seen as a positive for the Mistake Creek community—a positive in terms of primary production and a positive for the future of the school. Recently a local resident and her 11-month-old son were returning home in their four-wheel-drive when they hit a large rut, causing the vehicle to roll. Fortunately, while they were shaken up, no serious injuries were sustained. The accident served to remind all road users that the road is dangerous. The Clermont-Alpha road is used by livestock carriers, general suppliers and by locals and tourists. It is also a major trucking route for companies from as far south as Adelaide. It is a part of the type 2 road train route that links the west to the north and the south and home to the magnificent Narrien and Drummond ranges. Sealing the road makes plain common sense. It would relieve transport pressure on the coastal highways, increase tourism, save lives and provide a much-needed boost to the local communities of Clermont, Tambo, Alpha and Jericho.

Time expired.