



Speech by

**Barbara Stone**

**MEMBER FOR SPRINGWOOD**

Hansard Tuesday, 4 September 2007

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## **PACIFIC MOTORWAY; LEAD ON LOGAN**

**Ms STONE** (Springwood—ALP) (12.25 pm): I am thankful, yet angry, at the announcement by the federal government regarding funding for the upgrade of the Pacific Motorway. This announcement has been met with anger and indignation by those who have been lobbying for the funding for more than two years, that is, the people of Logan. I want to thank all the residents who have joined me in lobbying for this funding from the federal government. This announcement has come about as a result of public pressure.

The people of Logan City, especially the people of Springwood, know that it took an upcoming election for the federal government to announce the funding. How true is the old saying that the devil is in the detail. The funding, announced in the run-up to the upcoming election, will not be available for two years—a detail that has residents outraged. This delay in funding is a terrible display of politics. It is this detail that offers little comfort for the residents of Logan. Having championed this issue for a number of years on behalf of my constituency, of course I welcome the well-overdue funding. However, the commitment we have seen from Mr Vaile is a commitment to see the people of Logan suffer gridlock for two years and more while waiting for funding. It is not good enough.

At present the people in my electorate face problems daily as a direct result of the congested motorway. Those problems include a real cut in family time, as local people get caught in traffic for hours at a time, and concerns for physical safety as the number of accidents increase—problems that Mr Vaile has decided to wait another two years to fix. Why sit on funding that we need so desperately? The people of Springwood are livid that the federal government is meeting their cries for help only in a bid to be re-elected.

I welcome the bipartisan support for the upgrading of the Pacific Highway between the Gold Coast and Gateway motorways. The federal opposition—the Rudd Labor team—has matched that commitment. So the good news is that the upgrade will now go ahead regardless of which party wins the election. I want to thank the federal opposition leader, Kevin Rudd, and the federal shadow Treasurer, Wayne Swan, for listening to the concerns of my electorate. I have had a number of conversations with the shadow Treasurer, outlining to him the importance of this upgrade to the people of Springwood and Logan City. Earlier this year I wrote to Kevin Rudd and Wayne Swan explaining to them the importance of this major infrastructure upgrade to my constituency. They clearly understood the issue and I am pleased that they have listened and acted.

I have concerns that the dollar amount that has been set aside for the 2009-10 AusLink 2 budget does not seem to be able to cover every program that has been promised. I am very concerned that the people of Logan will miss out. I am very concerned as the Loganlea Road interchange—a situation that the Deputy Speaker is well aware of in his own electorate—needs upgrading urgently. I am very concerned for the Winnetts Road area in my own electorate and for the John Paul Drive overpass. I am very concerned that these projects will miss out. I will be doing whatever I can to push these projects forward, because they are a priority for my electorate. I will continue to lobby Canberra for the funding to be brought forward. I urge everyone to join me at [www.barbarastonemp.com](http://www.barbarastonemp.com) and send a very clear message to Canberra. Two years is too long to wait.

On a more positive note, I wish to inform the House about Lead On Logan. Social signs of development towards adulthood which society has long operated on are changing dramatically, with young people staying at home and receiving education for longer periods. Technology has delivered to society incredible tools for communication. But that can also facilitate social detachment as people forgo physical interaction in favour of communication at the touch of a button or the stroke of a keypad. Whilst these new signs of the time punctuate the division between the old and the new, as a community we need to be looking to create opportunities for youth to learn to be productive, to become connected to the community and to navigate within the community.

As a community we need to be helping youth to experience a set of supports and opportunities that are the critical building blocks of development across all of the settings in which they spend their time. Lead On is a program that builds the capacity of a community through the development of young people and has been purpose built to incorporate all sections of the community and to provide exposure of young people to real-life projects and community activities. The old African proverb that it takes a village to raise a child embodies the Lead On approach.

The Lead On model targets young people from all sectors of the community. This approach sees young people from diverse backgrounds working together as part of project teams participating in activities and learning experiences that are deemed as relevant and valuable by the young people involved. By engaging our youth through programs such as Lead On we are engaging future leaders, future business owners, future teachers and future parents, and in doing so we are ensuring the success and viability of the community.

I congratulate and thank Lead On Logan board and committee members: Executive Chairperson Colin Nelson, Secretary Marita Tomlinson, Treasurer Alan Gough and committee members Heather Scofield, Darren Cahill, Bill Richards, Sherry Heath, Hollie Reynolds, Carolyn Johnson, Kerry Holst, Paul Prince and Greg Dodge. I am very honoured and privileged to be the senior patron of Lead On Logan, a program that I am confident will cater directly to the development needs of youth and will become an invaluable resource for our community.