



Speech by

# Karen Struthers

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

Hansard Tuesday, 4 September 2007

---

## ALGESTER ELECTORATE, INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

**Ms STRUTHERS** (Algeria—ALP) (9.00 pm): Deputy Prime Minister Mark Vaile and Roads Minister Jim Lloyd came to Queensland last week with no new road money and no new announcements, but they had the audacity to re-announce and claim credit for the Acacia Ridge rail crossing project in my local area. Deputy Prime Minister Mark Vaile has been caught out in a media release trying to claim credit for the \$113 million Acacia Ridge rail crossing project when he has only put in \$25 million. A total of \$88 million of the project cost is being funded by the Queensland government. That sounds like the actions of men who are running scared with a federal election looming.

The \$113 million Acacia Ridge rail crossing upgrade would eliminate the major level crossing bottleneck on Beaudesert Road. As the local member of parliament for many years, I have lobbied with local residents and federal ALP candidate for Moreton Graham Perrett to get joint state-federal funding for this project.

Let me set the record straight: the federal government was dragged kicking and screaming to the table and then only coughed up less than one-quarter of the full cost of the project. This is typical of the Howard federal government. It is the biggest taxing government ever, but the meanest, particularly in cutting back much-needed funds to the states for health, housing, infrastructure and other social needs.

Another major project underway in my local area is the Larapinta-Algeria electricity substation and transmission line project. Powerlink is constructing a new substation and transmission line to provide more electricity to rapidly growing suburbs like Parkinson and Calamvale. An environmental impact study is underway. I am aware of the community concerns about the proposed new transmission line and I have called on Powerlink to shift the easement for the transmission line as far away as possible from residences. A community information day is being held on 15 September and I urge local residents to have their say on the Powelink project at this information day. My local area is growing rapidly. Residents can be assured of my continued advocacy for services and infrastructure to keep pace with this growth.