



Speech by

Hon. Ken Hayward

MEMBER FOR KALLANGUR

Hansard Wednesday, 14 March 2007

BRUCE HIGHWAY UPGRADE

Hon. KW HAYWARD (Kallangur—ALP) (9.45 pm): Last Monday I had the pleasure of attending the official commissioning of the Bruce Highway upgrade from Boundary Road to Uhlmann Road, Burpengary. I want to take the opportunity to acknowledge the presence of the federal minister, Jim Lloyd, and the parliamentary secretary for transport and main roads in Queensland, the member for Hervey Bay, Andrew McNamara, who attended this very important commissioning function.

This part of the Bruce Highway comprises the boundary between my electorate of Kallangur and the Murrumba electorate represented by the honourable Dean Wells. This section of the Bruce Highway carries over 75,000 vehicles per day. The upgrade and widening will significantly improve the highway's safety and capacity.

Mr McNamara interjected.

Mr HAYWARD: I well remember 26 September 2005 when, along with the federal member for Longman, Mal Brough, we performed a sod-turning ceremony to start this new \$108 million construction. The work came in on budget and on time.

There were many contractors, subcontractors and workers involved in this project. I want to congratulate them for their dedication and hard work on that project. I particularly want to thank the principal contractor on that job, Leighton Contractors.

I have spoken many times in this parliament about the upgrade of the Bruce Highway in my electorate to six lanes. That upgrade has been underway for over six years. The work is not completed yet, with the final stages to take the six-laning to meet the Caboolture Bypass in the electorate of Pumicestone, which is currently under construction. The completion of the stage to Uhlmann Road is very exciting and important for road users in my electorate and the other near northern areas. Pine Rivers and Caboolture shires, which directly feed on to the Bruce Highway, are fast growing areas of south-east Queensland. I expect that, as the upgrade task is complete to Uhlmann Road in Burpengary, traffic flows from the Kallangur electorate will be greatly improved.

I have previously urged highway users to show patience during the road construction and plan for a slower journey to their destinations. I congratulate them for their road behaviour and consideration during this time. The next stage to the Caboolture River will finally complete the project as it directly affects my electorate.

I welcome the funding for this project, which has come principally from the Commonwealth government but with the support of the Queensland government. I urge the Commonwealth government to set aside sufficient funds to ensure that the upgrade can be completed to the Caboolture bypass. Again, congratulations to all who were involved in the project. The upgrade is very welcome in the Kallangur electorate.