



Speech by

Lillian van Litsenburg

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

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AUSLINK

Ms van LITSENBURG (Redcliffe—ALP) (9.58 pm): I rise to speak about the AusLink road and rail network and the sad state many of those roads are in. This is despite the commitment that the Labor government has made to improving all of our road and rail systems. The Queensland AusLink road network needs to be brought up to nationally agreed standards to bring it up to the standard of roads in other states. This still leaves our roads well below the national highway standards in other OECD countries. This would be bad enough, but the huge growth that Queensland is experiencing, particularly in the south-east, makes this lack of maintenance and capital funding of road and rail infrastructure not only unsafe but negligent.

Urban congestion is a systems-wide issue which needs commitment to a total network approach from all levels of government. During the 2004-05 to 2008-09 funding period, the Queensland government will spend \$7.3 billion on road maintenance and infrastructure and a further \$2.95 billion on rail. That is a total of \$10.25 billion. In this same period, even though it brags about its huge surplus, the federal government funding for AusLink is \$15 billion for the whole country. Queensland's share of this is \$268 million. This puny amount allocated to Queensland does not even touch those congested areas around Brisbane, let alone the rest of the state.

Given this situation I was very surprised recently when our local federal member, Teresa Gambaro, pushed to spend \$500,000 of black spot funding on placing a third set of traffic lights in a single block on a state road that the Queensland government had just announced it would be spending several million dollars on. Obviously the federal member for Petrie does not see upgrading roads as a priority.

It is the Beattie Labor government that has commenced the duplication of the Houghton Highway in my electorate which will enable my constituents to travel to and from Brisbane more easily. I thank the minister for transport for his public support for this project. However, to reach their destination, many need to use the Gateway. This is an AusLink road that is in need of upgrading due to the growth of the northern suburbs in recent years. As a result, the Gateway has become a car park during peak periods. The federal government has seen fit to contribute only \$8 million of the \$1.88 billion required to upgrade the Gateway even though it approved the master plan for the airport, which contributes significant traffic volumes to the Gateway.

Time expired.