



Speech by

**Ros Bates**

**MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA**

Hansard Tuesday, 19 May 2009

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## **MUDGEERABA ELECTORATE, ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE**

**Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (10.33 pm): I rise to speak on behalf of the residents of Lower Beechmont and Springbrook. Beechmont Road was named RACQ's worst state main road in its 2008 survey, and not without good reason. Since December 2008, 15 accidents have occurred on this dangerous stretch of road. The latest accident resulted in the death of a local motorbike rider. It is believed that he hit a large pothole, which may have contributed to the accident.

Only days before I met with members of the Beechmont for Better Roads Committee, which had reported the pothole not once but twice to Main Roads. But unfortunately, it was repaired too late. During the 2009 election campaign, Better Roads for Beechmont presented a 900-strong petition from locals. As this petition was never tabled and no record of it exists—other than photocopies—one can only guess the whereabouts of the original. Sixty per cent of residents in the area signed protest cards sent by me and the member for Beaudesert demanding that this road be fixed.

This dangerous road needs guardrails installed and the road surface shaved back and resurfaced, not just resurfaced once again. Residents want this road fixed, and they want meaningful community consultation, which does not mean merely patching up the road. The road needs to be reprofiled, realigned and only then resurfaced. We should not be depending on near fatalities and fatalities before action is taken to fix our local roads.

This brings me to Gold Coast-Springbrook Road. Sections of Gold Coast-Springbrook Road between Little Nerang Dam Road and Pine Creek Road have remained closed for over six weeks since the recent landslide, which almost claimed the lives of a local Gold Coast family. I witnessed firsthand the enormity of the task at hand to stabilise this area and reopen the road to residents and tourists in a safe and timely fashion. The men working on this upgrade are to be commended as this work is highly dangerous and specialised. The size of the landslip is significant and it is readily apparent how dangerous and unstable this area has been and the intricacy involved in stabilising this area.

I also congratulate Main Roads for having the foresight to take the opportunity to bring forward much needed works now to avoid future disruption to motorists, including drain cleaning, visibility clearing, guidepost replacement and a general clean-up of the area. Although I understand the concerns of residents, and particularly the businesses in Springbrook, that each day this road is closed is of concern, I can assure residents that all that can be done is being done and that their road should be opened shortly.

*(Time expired)*