




Speech by  
**Bill Byrne**

**MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON**

Hansard Wednesday, 6 June 2012

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## **YEPPEN LAGOON CROSSING AND ROUNDABOUT UPGRADE**

 **Mr BYRNE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (11.03 pm): Last Friday I had the great pleasure of attending a sod-turning ceremony for the Yeppen Lagoon crossing and roundabout upgrade, south of Rockhampton. That project has been perhaps six to seven years in the planning. As a fellow bureaucrat I remember speaking to Main Roads planners many years ago. It has been a long identified priority for investment. I had the pleasure of attending the ceremony with the federal member for Capricornia, Kirsten Livermore, who has been a great friend of mine from the days before she entered politics. As a young solicitor, she worked for a community legal aid group of which I was on the board.

The project has been estimated to be worth about \$85 million. Three-quarters of that money is federal funding. It is a great credit to the department of main roads which was the planning enterprise, the previous state government which assisted with the funding and, of course, the federal Labor government which has put up the majority of the money.

The scope of the project will allow people living to the south of Rockhampton and those transiting into Rockhampton from the south to enter the city in a much more efficient and convenient fashion. It should be pointed out that the vast majority of people who will benefit from that are constituents of the federal seat of Flynn, which is held by the Liberal National Party. However, the project will certainly alleviate the morning transition problems associated with peak-hour traffic in the south of Rockhampton. For that reason alone, the people of Rockhampton and Gracemere will be greatly advantaged by it.

The next phase of the project should be a four-lane development from the Yeppen roundabout to the town of Gracemere, which crosses over federal electorate boundaries but is certainly a matter that should be in the realm of the state government. Traffic flows today certainly indicate that the rate of effort on those roads justifies four lanes and there have been some serious accidents and fatalities in recent years, all substantiating the need for further consideration being given to the extension of the highway. I appeal to the state government to consider looking at safety provisions for the road between the roundabout and the town of Gracemere by investing in a four-lane development.