




Speech by

Hon. Curtis Pitt

MEMBER FOR MULGRAVE

Hansard Thursday, 16 February 2012

MULGRAVE ELECTORATE

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Minister for Disability Services, Mental Health and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (4.02 pm): 1 February was my birthday, and you may ask: what did I get? I got a media release from the Katter Australian Party full of emotive language, factual inaccuracies and bizarre thought bubbles about road planning. While this loose-with-the-truth rhetoric is nothing new from Bob Katter, this particular statement had more holes in it than a teapot strainer. There are too many to go through, but here are a couple of gems—

... Launceston has eight overpasses and 24,000 people ...

Launceston has more than 106,000 people, and the idea that road planning should be based on the number of overpasses per person in an area beggars belief. Next we will be hearing that its economic policy is based on chook raffles! He continued—

... a high-speed freeway would destroy 1,000 businesses along Mulgrave Road ...

The final Bruce Highway upgrade master plan has fewer than 100 property impacts in total. There are no resumptions in the first stage, which got underway late last year, and I am pretty sure a count of businesses on Mulgrave Road would not be in the order of 1,000. I have no idea why Katter kept talking about Mulgrave Road. It is a state controlled road that begins after the Bruce Highway ends. And he reckons he knows North Queensland!

Last week we heard Campbell Newman suggest that Bowen was north of Cairns. This is the same bloke who had not driven the Bruce Highway in a quarter of a century and the same bloke who tried to say that I represented a seat called 'Musgrave'. In the case of Bob Katter, I think somebody should just lend him a GPS to help him find his way around. For the record, the peak-hour roadside protest promised by Bob Katter saw about five people show up—two of which were the Katter Australian Party and LNP candidates for Mulgrave. I have said it before and I will say it again: no person who lives in White Rock, Mount Sheridan, Bentley Park or Edmonton will benefit from either Katter or LNP proposals. These residents make up more than two-thirds of total traffic, these residents are bearing the brunt of traffic congestion problems and a second corridor would not help these residents one bit. More than two years of consultation occurred on our agreed highway upgrade plan and there was overwhelming public support to get on with it, and that is what I plan on doing.