



Speech by


**Hon. David Crisafulli**

**MEMBER FOR MUNDINGBURRA**

Hansard Tuesday, 30 October 2012

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## **MUNDINGBURRA ELECTORATE, BRUCE HIGHWAY**

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Mundingburra—LNP) (Minister for Local Government) (9.57 pm): I might do something novel and actually speak about something that matters to my electorate this evening. I want to speak tonight about the Bruce Highway crisis action plan and what that means to the people of Mundingburra. For others this might just be a debate about a bit of bitumen or a bit of road, but it is so much more than that for the people of regional Queensland—the people I represent. For them this is about their economy. It is about their lifestyle. It is about their safety. Quite frankly, it is a matter of life and death for the people of regional Queensland.

What the state government has announced—and it is supported by the mayor of Rockhampton, Bill, so it should be of great interest to you—is that for the first time a state government is putting up its hand and saying, 'We are willing to put \$1 billion on the table over the next 10 years over and above what our contribution is.' This is not a state road; this is a federal road. Yet this parliament, this government, is saying it is willing to contribute \$1 billion over the next 10 years. Why? Because it means something to regional Queensland. Our additional \$1 billion can reap an extra \$4 billion from the Commonwealth if they follow the traditional funding model—\$4 billion. That is not the base case; that is over and above that, and that can make a real difference.

What this means for communities is that finally we will have a Bruce Highway that does not constantly fail. To the great credit of the mayors, the councillors and the communities along that highway, they are finally putting aside the differences we have seen over the years where everyone has fought for their small project near their city. We now understand that it does not matter if you are a tomato farmer in Bowen, a tourist operator in Cairns or a cattle farmer in Rockhampton; when that highway is cut or when there are deaths on that road, we all suffer as a community.

Our cause has not been helped by those opposite. When I hear the member for Mulgrave talking about this money as being a waste, when I hear the member for Mackay defending the record of the federal government and saying how wonderful they are, I understand how much more difficult our job is. This is something that we must speak as one about. As a regional Queenslander, I say to the member for Rockhampton: you should be standing beside us, as your mayor is—side by side. This is something which is life or death for regional Queensland. This is a major issue for regional Queensland. I say to those opposite: stand side by side with us, take on the federal government regardless of political persuasion and let us deliver for regional Queensland.

*(Time expired)*