




Speech by

Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

Hansard Thursday, 7 June 2012

NANANGO ELECTORATE, ROAD NETWORK

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (2.51 pm): I rise to speak on the state of the road network in the electorate of Nanango. I have seen firsthand the failure to plan during 20 years of the failed Labor administration, and it has been disastrous for the roads within my electorate. The three major highways that traverse the electorate—the D'Aguilar, the New England and the Brisbane Valley highways—are in a very poor condition. The drive from Kingaroy to Kilcoy is very dangerous, as the terrain does not allow for passing and trucks have no choice but to block the roads, making some motorists do ridiculous things and causing danger to other drivers. Unfortunately, many deaths and avoidable accidents have occurred due to this. I am excited, though, to be on this side of the House because I will be working hard to ensure that the Nanango electorate gets its fair share of road upgrades—

Mr Johnson: And proper representation.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: That is correct. I look forward to working with the Minister for Main Roads on this issue that is so critical to the constituents of my electorate. I especially look forward to delivering those passing lanes between Kilcoy and Kingaroy and to talking to locals to establish where the best spot for them would be.

I must also mention that the major milestone of the reopening of the two lanes of the Blackbutt Range, which was meant to occur today but due to rain has been prevented from reopening, will hopefully happen next week. This is big news for our community, as this important freight route and road link has been operating as a single lane under traffic controls since January 2011, adding up to 25 minutes to the drive from Kingaroy to Brisbane or Brisbane to Kingaroy.

I thank all road users and nearby communities for their ongoing patience during this time. Reconstructing this part of the highway has been a priority and the work has been ongoing. Regular users of this section of the highway will be very aware of the massive amount of progress that has been achieved in trying to rebuild this road. But there is much more to be done. I received representations from many constituents with regard to the state of the roads, and I would say that this would be the No. 1 issue within the Nanango electorate.

I have been approached by elderly people in Crows Nest asking for a 50-kilometre speed limit through their town and the updating of crossings. As there are many elderly residents within Crows Nest who walk to the shops, I think they would benefit from those improvements. I have also been asked to review the truck stop at Colington. Feedback suggests it is very poorly positioned. We have also had road safety requests from the principal of the Cooyar State School who is concerned about children's safety near the school and on the road between Geham and Hampton.

I believe the Nanango electorate is the inland gateway to the rest of Queensland, so it is my goal to ensure that the roads that take everyone to the rest of Queensland are well maintained. For the people who use them every day to travel—

(Time expired)