



Speech by


## Jason Costigan

MEMBER FOR WHITSUNDAY

Hansard Thursday, 23 August 2012

---

### WHITSUNDAY ELECTORATE, BRUCE HIGHWAY

 **Mr COSTIGAN** (Whitsunday—LNP) (3.32 pm): I rise in this House to speak about the urgent need to upgrade the Bruce Highway in the Mackay-Whitsunday region. This is not just a call for cash, which has dried up thanks to the reckless spending of the previous Labor government, but a call for help on the back of some very tragic events that have occurred within my electorate over the past couple of weeks. On 10 August 2012, a whole family was all but wiped out in a shocking accident on the Bruce Highway at Cathu, north of Calen. That accident claimed the lives of four people: Leanne Summers, aged 39; Shane Summers, aged 41; Brendan Summers, aged 17; and Mia Summers, aged four. Matthew Summers, aged 18, lost his mum, his dad, his brother and a little sister. We especially pray for him and his little baby brother, Damian, who was the sole survivor from the family vehicle after it collided with a truck.

Since then, on 16 August 2012 at Pindi Pindi, barely five minutes south of Cathu, again this notorious and dangerous section of the Bruce Highway road claimed another life—that of a truck driver who was also tragically taken after a head-on smash with another truck, the wreckage visible as I headed to my electorate office the following morning. It is a sad story as you travel up and down the highway. I remind members that, as you head north, there is not a single northbound overtaking lane for 250 kilometres—from Mount Ossa until you cross the Silver Link, which, for those members who are not aware, is the Burdekin Bridge, just south of Ayr. It is a disgrace.

I am proud to say that I campaigned long and hard on the Bruce Highway during my 57-week campaign for the seat of Whitsunday, because I was fed up—and I am fed up—with the neglect of the Bruce Highway in my wonderful part of North Queensland. My federal colleagues Warren Truss, Darren Chester and Ken O'Dowd saw this neglect for themselves when they joined me and the federal MP for Dawson, George Christensen, on the highway some weeks ago.

I am pleased to say that a number of overtaking lanes are now being constructed on the highway, but I think the only reason that is happening is the hurry-up we gave my predecessor, who sat on her hands for 11 years and produced bugger-all in highway improvements in her electorate.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mrs Cunningham): Order! Member for Whitsunday, that is unparliamentary. I would ask you to withdraw, please.

**Mr COSTIGAN:** I withdraw.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Good try, though.

**Mr COSTIGAN:** For the record, produced stuff—all—

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Whitsunday, would you rephrase that, please.

**Mr COSTIGAN:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I withdraw again, and thank you for your guidance—produced very little to say the least in highway improvements. We need more overtaking lanes and a better crossing of the flood plain at Goorganga Plains. Even line marking would help. The time for talk is over. The time for action is now.