




Speech By
Shane Knuth

MEMBER FOR DALRYMPLE

Record of Proceedings, 27 August 2014

ADJOURNMENT

Malanda-Upper Barron Road, Upgrade

 **Mr KNUTH** (Dalrymple—KAP) (10.40 pm): Yesterday I asked the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, 'Is the Malanda-Upper Barron Road being considered for upgrading under the recent funding announcement aimed at getting Queenslanders home safer and sooner?' The minister raved on about what a wonderful job they are doing on the Bruce Highway, but that is a long way from the Malanda-Upper Barron Road. I ask the minister this question because this road is a major tourism destination and a major arterial link to and from south and western Queensland, but the sealing of this priority road has continually been rejected. This state government road is important to road users, but it is boycotted because of its severe danger. I will read some letters, but I first want to table some pictures of the shocking state of the road as a result of usage and high rainfall.

Tabled paper: Bundle of photographs depicting an unsealed road [\[5767\]](#).

I will also read a letter from Trevor Pearce of Telpara Hills, who has the Brangus and Charolais stud. He says—

We are one of Australia's leading seed stock producers in the beef cattle industry and are located at the Upper Barron on the Tablelands.

...

Our location and cattle business has over the years been increasingly impacted upon by the failure of State Government to agree with local council to upgrade the gravel section to bitumen from the Kennedy Hwy\Malanda-Upper Barron Rd.

The state of the surface of this section is not only an extreme safety hazard causing accidents, near misses, crossovers, broken window screens and even vehicles becoming bogged from slippery conditions. It is an embarrassment to our business and the Atherton Tablelands image.

I will table that. I will also read a letter from Tami Palmer of Tropical Peat. She says—

I would like to make an official complaint about the maintenance of the Upper Barron Road and the entrance to Belson Road in Upper Barron.

We are a raw materials business trading as Tropical Peat at 12 Belson Road, specialising in bulk raw materials. We regularly use the Upper Barron Road to go to Townsville and Cairns with big trucks and we also deliver small truck deliveries all over the tablelands.

On the 17th March 2014, one of our employees turned off Upper Barron Road into Belson Road and hit a large pot hole which jarred the steering wheel and the air seat when down which pushed the drivers elbow up and into his neck. He has now had to lodge for worker's compensation as it has not healed and he is unable to work. He may still require surgery.

I will table this. This letter comes from Richard Holme, who states—

The worst road in Queensland exists just 18 kilometres from Atherton and 8 k from Malanda. The 4 kilometre section of gravel out of the 13.5 kilometres of Upper Barron Road could only be described as appalling.

I will table that. I also table a letter from the Tablelands Regional Council.

Tabled paper: Bundle of letters in relation to the sealing of Upper Barron Road, Atherton Tablelands [\[5768\]](#).

Mayor Rosa Lee Long states—

I write to extend my strong support to complete the sealing of the Upper Barron Road, which is within the boundaries of Tablelands—

(Time expired)