




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA NORTH

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ADJOURNMENT

Toowoomba Second Range Crossing

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (9.39 pm): Toowoomba is a great place to live, work and play and it is represented by two very enthusiastic members. Today is a great day for Toowoomba. Some 150 years ago a member called John Watts stood in this place and said that we need a better range crossing. Today another milestone ticks over on that journey. We have announced today that the three tenderers for the project will be able to start preparing their bids.

This is really important for Toowoomba. People who have not been up to Toowoomba do not realise just how significant it is to have 6,000 trucks drive through the centre of your town. Imagine that happening somewhere in Brisbane or on the Gold Coast. The people of Toowoomba were promised action 20 years ago. Twenty years ago they started talking about this. The former local member was from the Labor Party and was a cabinet minister in this place. All we got was talk and more talk. Just before the last election there was another announcement and more talk.

This LNP government has delivered. I would very much like to thank the Treasurer, the Deputy Premier and the Premier for making things happen for regional Queensland. The Minister for Transport and Main Roads will get to take over this project once the tenders are in and we know exactly how it is going to be done and which organisation will be doing it. I am really looking forward to that day and so is every single person in Toowoomba.

It means that mums and dads will be able to get across town to play netball with their kids without having to tangle with industrial traffic. It means that people will be able to get into our CBD without having to tangle with B-doubles full of animals travelling from the west to the slaughterhouses in Brisbane. All of the goods, produce and raw materials that Brisbane thrives on and that are exported out of Queensland travel down the main road of Toowoomba. Having this bypass will make an enormous difference not just to the people of Toowoomba but to all the businesses based in Toowoomba.

Compare and contrast what we have achieved in just three short years with what Labor managed to achieve in 20 years in this place. As a side note, anybody who is coming to the Carnival of Flowers this year will be able to travel up the existing range, which has had over \$80 million spent on it to make it a safe, reliable, resilient road. Again, it is something that Labor neglected to maintain. That nearly caused Western Queensland to be cut off. We will never allow our infrastructure to be in the bad shape that it was in under Labor as it racked up \$80 billion worth of debt.