




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MURRUMBIDGEE

Record of Proceedings, 10 November 2015

ADJOURNMENT

Murrumbidgee Infrastructure Forum

 **Mr WHITING** (Murrumbidgee—ALP) (7.00 pm): I rise to report back to the House about the successful Murrumbidgee Infrastructure Forum.

A government member: Good news.

Mr WHITING: It is very good news, positive news. The first Murrumbidgee Infrastructure Forum was held on Tuesday, 20 October at The Corso at North Lakes. It was a case of perfect timing, coming at the time when Labor launched our infrastructure plan, the first coordinated plan on infrastructure delivery since 2011. It came at a time when we brought in Building Queensland, which will lay out the infrastructure pipeline to support jobs now and jobs into the future. This was an important election commitment of mine and I was proud to make it.

Infrastructure is a matter of intense interest to the residents in Murrumbidgee. The rapid growth of areas such as North Lakes, Griffin and Mango Hill has made the electorate of Murrumbidgee the largest electorate by population in Queensland. More and more people have moved into these areas and the pressure on local infrastructure is being felt by residents. I have been informed that 83 per cent of employed residents head up and down the Bruce Highway each working day, and the travel time between Anzac Avenue and the Pine River has increased by 47 per cent in the past year.

The new Moreton Bay Rail Link will provide great relief for local residents and give some respite for local infrastructure.

A government member interjected.

Mr WHITING: It is another great Labor initiative. But the need for different kinds of transport infrastructure will continue. The aim of the forum was to inform local residents of the future plans for local infrastructure and the progress of projects already underway.

Residents also appreciated the chance to suggest what further infrastructure would be needed. There were representatives there from the Moreton Bay Rail Link who gave a presentation, as did Main Roads as well. Here are some of the suggestions: more bicycle and shared path infrastructure; and more road infrastructure including the Rothwell roundabout, Deception Bay Road, implementing the South Moreton arterial roads strategy, improvements on Anzac Avenue and the Managed Motorways program. There were some very good suggestions on public transport infrastructure; education infrastructure, including the need for more facilities at North Lakes; and digital telecommunications infrastructure. I can tell the House that the residents were very appreciative of the opportunity offered at this forum to hear what was planned and also to make their own suggestions.

I have presented the report to the Deputy Premier and I will be lobbying to implement its recommendations. I think it stands in stark contrast to the negative and regressive policies that we have seen from the LNP in recent times and heard about today. The residents of the Murrumbidgee electorate

do need that infrastructure and we will be lobbying for it. But we know that it is only Labor, who have infrastructure in their DNA, who will be able to deliver this infrastructure for what is now the largest electorate by population in Queensland.