




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR YEERONGPILLY

Record of Proceedings, 15 October 2015

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Roads Infrastructure

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy and Water Supply) (2.57 pm): Firstly, I will address those extraordinarily untrue comments made by the member for Kawana, who is trying to cover up three years of inaction on the Sunshine Coast by alleging that there was a cancellation of a program. There was never any funding by his government whatsoever for the project he just mentioned. It was put forward as part of the Strong Choices program, a program that was resoundingly rejected at the last election. It was never funded by the former government. The member opposite had three years to do something about it. He failed, and all of his Sunshine Coast MPs failed. Now he is trying to get us to solve something that he could not solve for three years. He can be assured that we are planning for the road needs of the Sunshine Coast, but he is misleading this House by alleging that a program was funded when it was not.

I move on to the important issue of the M1. It is a crucial part of our Queensland road network. The member for Springwood has been raising this very important matter with me and I thank him for his very strong advocacy on behalf of not only his constituents but the many constituents who use the M1 every day. Despite the federal government failing to commit any funding whatsoever, the Palaszczuk government has now committed to funding the business case for the upgrade of the Gateway Motorway-M1 merge.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): The level of audible conversation in the House is growing. I ask people to take their conversations outside.

Mr BAILEY: This is needed to unlock the funding for the construction required to meet the needs of this fast-growing region. Queensland is sick of waiting for the federal government to commit to a fair and appropriate funding model for the M1. That is why we are pushing ahead with a business case for the southbound section of the Pacific Motorway between the Gateway Motorway merge and Rochedale Road. A multimillion dollar upgrade is desperately needed for this vital freight and commuter route that links Gold Coast to Brisbane and beyond. Currently more than 147,000 vehicles battle congestion on this motorway each day, including more than 12,000 heavy vehicles.

To date the federal government has ignored our calls to commit the same 80 per cent funding they do elsewhere in Queensland and around the country. We just want Queensland to be treated the same as other states. In New South Wales, for example, they are getting \$5.64 billion in an 80-20 funding split for the same road across the border. Elsewhere in Queensland the federal government provides funding at 80-20 for the Gateway arterial, Toowoomba, the Warrego and up on the Bruce Highway, all of which carry less traffic per day than the M1. Without a debt commitment from them to fund planning on an 80-20 basis we have been caught in a no-win scenario, but we are getting on with the job by pushing ahead with this planning.

Our business case proposes a new 100-metre-long, four-lane overpass on Underwood Road which will enable the motorway to better service cars, buses and trucks. In total, the planning provides for the upgrade of three kilometres of motorway from three to five lanes in the southbound direction to be completed in early 2016.

(Time expired)