




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR YEERONGPILLY

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MOTION: ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE, FEDERAL FUNDING

Road Infrastructure, Federal Funding

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (5.29 pm): I move—

That this parliament request the Australian government play its role in the development of Queensland roads and jobs across this state by:

- agreeing to apply the 80-20 funding arrangement for the M1 upgrades because the M1 is part of the National Land Transport Network, consistent with the federal government's election commitment and as defined on maps published by their own department;
- expediting the announcement and commencement of successful projects in the North Australian Roads Program that was first announced on 18 June 2015; and
- expediting the announcement and commencement of successful Queensland projects in the Beef Roads Program that was also first announced on 18 June 2015.

This is an important issue for Queensland—Queensland's roads and infrastructure. It is important for us to get our fair share compared to other states and for there to be consistency in terms of the way the Commonwealth funds roads in Queensland. I draw the attention of the House to the federal coalition's policy which states—

The coalition will ensure an 80:20 funding agreement is adopted when it comes to nationally significant roads outside the capital cities—

outside capital cities, I note—

this is the Commonwealth's fair share. It is the Commonwealth that should provide the majority of funding for such roads. It is the Commonwealth that is responsible for ensuring interstate and freight road networks are efficient. It is the Commonwealth that reaps a large part of the gains from efficient road networks.

That is from the federal government's own policy document. What do they have here for the M1? They come to Queensland and try to rip us off with a 50 per cent funding offer when the same road gets funded 80 per cent across the border. It is gets funded 80 per cent up the road at the Gateway Motorway North.

We have seen a plethora of excuses from the federal government in trying to justify their rip-off of Queenslanders. The latest excuse is that the M1 is not a metropolitan road. Their own document defines it as roads outside metropolitan areas. Their own policy identifies that they will fund roads outside capital cities. The M1 to the Gold Coast is clearly outside the capital city of Brisbane.

This is an issue of integrity of government. They went to the people with a policy. Here we are, two months after the election of the federal government, and they are absolutely contravening their own policy by treating the M1 and Gold Coast and Logan residents in an inferior way to the people who live

across the border in New South Wales and even people who live in Brisbane. If they only fund roadways 50-50 in capital cities then why do they fund the Gateway Motorway North 80-20? Why do they do that? It is absolutely hypocritical. They have not got a leg to stand on.

In terms of the Northern Australia white paper we saw an announcement from the federal government over a year ago on the Northern Australia Roads Program and over a year ago on the Beef Roads Program. They said they were going to do it. Where are we? It is now September—a year and three months later. What exactly has happened?

We have our 20 per cent on the table. They fund roads in regional areas 80-20. Apparently, the M1 that has nearly 9,000 freight movements on the Gold Coast section and 13,000 at the Gateway merge—a critical economic generator and critical jobs generator in this state—is grinding to a halt because the federal government wants to rip off Queensland and treat us differently from other states.

They will fund the Northern Connector in Adelaide 80-20. They will fund the roadworks at Banora Point, just across the border, 96 per cent. The road between Woolgoolga and Ballina, just across the border, gets 80 per cent funding. What about Gold Coast residents? Every single MP on the Gold Coast at the moment is an opposition MP. They will not have them for too long if they keep backing Canberra instead of the Gold Coast and Queensland. I can only presume that the Gold Coast MPs from the LNP will be backing the Canberra Raiders this weekend because by the way they behave they are not backing Queensland. They are backing Canberra. It is a disgrace.

They need to support this motion. If they are sincere about backing Queensland they should be backing our campaign against the federal government to get our fair share of funding to get these critical upgrades at the Gateway merge and on the M1 on the Gold Coast going. They need to put pressure on their parliamentary colleagues in the federal government to get the NAR program going and to get the Beef Roads Program going.

We want road projects going in Queensland. The federal government needs to step up to the plate and start to understand Queensland. Those opposite should be supporting this motion and supporting Queensland and not backing Canberra. They should be backing Queensland. They are here to represent their people and not to be apologists for Canberra.