




Speech By
Ros Bates

MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA

Record of Proceedings, 20 April 2016

ADJOURNMENT

M1 and Beechmont Road, Upgrades

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (1.03 am): I rise to speak about urgently needed upgrades to the M1 motorway and Beechmont Road in my electorate of Mudgeeraba. In recent weeks we have seen the do-nothing, know-nothing Minister for Main Roads continue to bumble and fumble around, particularly with the history of funding for the M1, as he holds up a crucial upgrade between Robina and Reedy Creek. On 6 April I joined my federal colleague the Hon. Karen Andrews as we once again called on the minister to get this upgrade underway—an upgrade that he admits is shovel-ready with ‘design and early works’ that ‘could begin immediately’ pending a business case and funding commitment from the Labor government. Our calls came after the Labor government neglected to even mention this section of the M1 in its State Infrastructure Plan, despite the federal coalition government listing the upgrade as a priority initiative in the Australian Infrastructure Plan.

In the days that followed, we were stunned to see the minister claim to have submitted a final business case six weeks prior. Unfortunately for the minister, his federal counterpart, the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, the Hon. Darren Chester, has confirmed that a final business case from the Labor government for upgrades on the M1 had been received only three weeks beforehand, once again leaving the minister red faced and caught out telling porky pies. I table the media statement from the Hon. Darren Chester.

Tabled paper: Media statement, dated 13 April 2016, by the Commonwealth Minister for Infrastructure and Transport and Member for Gippsland, Hon. Darren Chester, titled ‘Government committed to easing congestion in South East Queensland’ [\[546\]](#).

We are now two years out from the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games and it is clear that this minister still cannot get his facts straight. Labor remains frozen at the wheel and local residents are stuck in traffic as a result.

This week the Labor government finally caved in to political pressure and announced a quick-fix solution to a string of fatal and near-fatal accidents on Beechmont Road, further west in my electorate in Lower Beechmont, through the installation of guardrails and passing bays. After a yearlong community campaign and a string of fatal and near-fatal accidents, the Labor government has finally recognised that we need to do something about Beechmont Road. That is a win for people power and the community.

Since this Labor government took office in 2015 there have been 26 reported accidents on Beechmont Road in which 23 people were injured and, tragically, three people lost their lives. Since 2009 there have been 93 reported accidents on Beechmont Road, including five fatalities and 77 injuries. This Labor government has dragged its heels for months, as more and more people lose their lives on this dangerous road, refusing to commit any funding despite repeated calls from me, the member for Beaudesert, Jon Krause, and the Better Roads for Beechmont group.

The guardrail installation is long overdue. I am sorry to see that it took three fatalities to convince this minister to finally do something to protect our motorists. Whilst necessary, this quick fix is not enough. I will continue to work with the member for Beaudesert and Better Roads for Beechmont to get the next stretch of Beechmont Road, between Elimbah Court and Jardine Road, properly upgraded to secure the safety of local residents in the long term. I hope that we do not see more fatalities on that particular stretch of road before more funding is given by the government. In fact, of the 14 fatalities in the hinterland in the past 12 months, 12 of have been in the electorate of Mudgeeraba. We need to fix my roads.