




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR DALRYMPLE

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ADJOURNMENT

Dalrymple Electorate, Road Safety

 **Mr KNUTH** (Dalrymple—KAP) (6.18 pm): I would like to bring to the attention of the House a road that desperately needs to be upgraded and sealed, and that is the Herberton Petford Road to Irvinebank. Irvinebank is an old tin-mining town. It was the Irvinebank and Petford region where 'Red Ted' Theodore held a lot of political movements and fought hard for the working class people. This road is a shortcut to Chillagoe. It also saves about 30 kilometres for travellers who are travelling from Mount Garnet to Herberton. Rather than going through the Atherton Tablelands, they are able to take that short cut to Chillagoe and likewise to Dimbulah. The road is in a deplorable state. There are massive holes in the road which can be seen from this picture, which I will table.

Tabled paper: Photograph of a Irvinebank Road, Petford [\[716\]](#).

Tabled paper: Bundle of photographs regarding Irvinebank Road, Petford [\[717\]](#).

This road desperately needs to be sealed. Year in year out, the road is graded over and all of the rocks still stick through so it does not alleviate the problem or produce a smooth, safe road. A lot of the road is downhill and it gets very bumpy. We have had six accidents in the last seven weeks, and about four of those accidents involved serious injuries. We can keep asking the Mareeba Shire Council to grade that road every year, but there are bad spots on that highway. It is a well-used road. If we put bitumen over the top of about three or four kilometres of that bad section, we would not have this problem year in year out. I have tabled all of these letters and the photo shows the rocks sticking through that road. It is severely dangerous. Cars are travelling downhill and they slowly bump themselves out of the alignment and then go off the side, roll or have a serious accident.

There is also a need to upgrade the Kennedy Highway, particularly the Tumoulin Road turn-off. We acknowledge the funding that we are getting to upgrade the Tumoulin Road turn-off to the Upper Barron Road turn-off. This section is breaking up. It is a B-double route and is well used by B-doubles, yet it is falling to pieces. We need those two sections of roads to get emergency funding to resolve these problems once and for all.