




Speech By
Shane Knuth

MEMBER FOR DALRYMPLE

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ADJOURNMENT

Dalrymple Electorate, Roads

 **Mr KNUTH** (Dalrymple—KAP) (6.38 pm): There are a number of roads in my electorate that need urgent attention through funding, upgrade and the provision of passing lanes. I refer to the Millaa Millaa-Malanda Road, which joins the Palmerston Highway and connects to the far northern coast. The Palmerston Highway runs from Innisfail to Millaa Millaa and connects to the Millaa Millaa-Malanda Road. The highway carries a lot of road traffic, including prime movers. There is a massive flow of traffic coming up the Palmerston Range, but when it gets to Millaa Millaa it encounters the school buses and students going from Millaa Millaa to Malanda or Malanda to Millaa Millaa.

This section of road is massively congested and there is an urgent need for passing lanes to combat this slow-moving traffic in the morning. We acknowledge that the Ergon powerlines in some areas may have to be removed, but it is 2017, not the 1950s, and we have to make decisions in this regard. I want to acknowledge the Minister for Main Roads in providing \$3 million funding for a seriously dangerous section of the Palmerston Highway, and that is the area at Henrietta Creek. Bob Katter and I saw the seriousness of that section of road and lobbied very strongly about two months ago. As we were lobbying for funding for this road there were quite a number of near misses and many accidents as a result of the potholes on that road, but that road is very important because my constituents go down that range and people from other electorates go up the range.

The LNP attacked me for not getting enough money, despite the \$3 million. However, the area that I fought to get that funding for is not in my electorate but in the Hinchinbrook electorate. The LNP was attacking me for getting funding in its electorate and then it attacked me because we did not get enough! It was disappointing that the LNP saw this as a political issue when it was about saving lives. There were three serious motorcycle accidents about a month ago and people were asking for something to be done urgently, so we stepped in and worked with the minister and got that funding. We are very appreciative of that \$3 million funding going into that road, but there also needs to be funding for the Kennedy Highway between Tumoulin and Upper Barron Road.