



Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles
MEMBER FOR MOUNT COOT-THA

Record of Proceedings, 24 August 2017

PETITIONS: MOTION TO TAKE NOTE

Motion to Take Note

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Mount Coot-tha—ALP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef) (11.53 am): I move—

That the House take note of e-petition 2766-17 from 11,345 petitioners requesting the House to designate the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing the Brett Forte Way in perpetuity.

As all members are aware, Senior Constable Brett Forte's death in the line of duty in May 2017 has devastated many people across Queensland—most of all his family, friends and colleagues. I appreciate the suggestion from the 11,345 petitioners to name the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing the Brett Forte Way, and I thank each and every one of them for taking the time to bring this matter to the attention of the House. There is a formal process that applies to the naming of road infrastructure, and I have asked the Department of Transport and Main Roads to record the nomination for further consideration.

From a technical perspective, the recognised name of a road can be different to the name given to the road for administration purposes. For example, the administration name for the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing motorway will be the Warrego Highway in the east, and as the road heads towards the west it will become the Gore Highway. There has been significant community interest in the naming of the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing, both locally and statewide. Over the last 10 months the Department of Transport and Main Roads and the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports have received naming nominations from local government and community members. These nominations have been acknowledged and added to a local database for consideration at the appropriate time. I can advise the House that the department has been working on a specific Toowoomba Second Range Crossing infrastructure naming process and will be looking to commence public consultation in early 2018.

The naming of any project, particularly one as significant to the Toowoomba and Lockyer Valley regions as this project, requires careful consideration and wide consultation with the community. The general procedure in relation to recommending recognition names for state controlled assets includes consultation with local government, local members of parliament, other affected districts or regions, local associations, industry bodies and peak community organisations. In particular, it is proposed that recognition names be nominated through community submissions for the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing as a whole; the 800-metre viaduct along the Toowoomba escarpment; and the 70-metre twin arch bridges over the New England Highway.

To encourage the local involvement of young people throughout the Toowoomba and Lockyer Valley regions it is proposed that all school children in the Toowoomba Regional Council area have an opportunity to submit suggestions to name the bridge over the Warrego Highway at Charlton and the bridge over the Gore Highway at Athol. Schoolchildren in the Lockyer Valley will be given the opportunity to name the overpass on the Warrego Highway at Helidon Spa. I can advise that formal submissions

will commence in early 2018 through an online process, and a Toowoomba Second Range Crossing naming committee will be established to oversee the process, short-list and make recommendations to state government in mid-2018. Announcements of the recognition names will occur before the opening of the road to the public in late 2018. In early 2018 I encourage all committee members to submit their nominations online via the Department of Transport and Main Roads website.

Again I would like to thank all those petitioners who have taken the time to add their support to the proposal to name the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing the Brett Forte Way. The naming submissions received to date will be tabled with the naming committee and considered along with all other nominations received through the online process. Let me commend the member for Toowoomba North for the thoughtful way he has approached this issue. Again I thank all petitioners for bringing this valuable suggestion to the attention of the House.