




Speech By
Patrick Weir

MEMBER FOR CONDAMINE

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ADJOURNMENT

Condamine Electorate, Roads

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (6.00 pm): Roads and road safety remain a major issue in the electorate of Condamine. It is very rare for a week to go past without the office getting a phone call, letter or email about a road or the safety of that road. Some of those concerns come from local residents, some from school bus committee representatives and some from heavy vehicle operators. During my time as the member, I have met, sighted and travelled over these roads and I can assure the House that all of these concerns are valid. There is urgent need for some major roadworks to take place on many of these roads.

The Bowenville-Norwin Road intersects the Warrego Highway and travels south-west to Norwin. This road is subject to a large volume of overland flow during times of flood, which during the 2011 flood event deteriorated the condition of the road to such an extent that the Department of Transport and Main Roads has now set the speed limit on most of the road at 60 kilometres per hour. It is almost impossible to keep your seat in the vehicle even at this lower speed. This area produces a lot of grain and cotton, which ultimately has to be transported to market by the use of heavy transport vehicles. They attempt to avoid this road as much as possible. Unfortunately, the school bus has no choice but to travel this road.

The Clifton-Leyburn Road, which commences at Clifton, is in much the same condition, with once again the speed limit being reduced. Apparently that is the only answer to the dangerous conditions experienced by road users. This road intersects with the Toowoomba-Karara Road, which is also in disrepair, not to mention the Toowoomba-Cecil Plains Road, the Bowenville-Moola Road and the Oakey-Pittsworth Road, just to name a few. All of these roads have school buses travelling on them, heavy transport vehicles transporting produce and stock, and local farmers driving from one property to another on a regular basis. The Clifton-Leyburn Road was built by the American Defence Force in the Second World War and there has not been much money spent on it since.

What is it going to take before funding is allocated to repairing or reconstructing these roads? Does the local school bus have to lurch into the path of an oncoming truck? These roads are in a very dangerous condition and need some urgent action before a tragedy occurs. I extend an invitation to Minister Bailey to travel with me and see firsthand the unsafe condition of these roads and many others throughout regional Queensland.