



Speech By
Ann Leahy

MEMBER FOR WARREGO

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ADJOURNMENT

Warrego Electorate, Roads

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (7.06 pm): I rise to speak on an issue that is of great importance to my electorate, and that is roads. It concerns me greatly that the Auditor-General's report No. 4 for 2017-18 titled *Integrated transport planning* concluded that the existing state controlled road network has been, and continues to be, underfunded. The Department of Transport and Main Roads forecasts that the renewal backlog will exceed \$9 billion over the next decade, thereby putting the sustainability of the transport network at risk. That is about three dual carriageway roads from Brisbane to Perth that are not being built in this state.

Despite this massive underfund by Labor, I will not stop fighting for communities in the electorate of Warrego for more road funding. People want to see road pavements widened—like the Mitchell to St George, the Meandarra to Westmar, the Jackson to Wandoan and the Wyandra to Charleville roads. I will keep fighting for our fair share of funding to upgrade these roads, especially those upgrades that will stimulate the economy such as upgrades to enable B-double access to roads like the Mitchell to St George road.

I will also keep fighting for speed limits to be reviewed on state controlled roads. This lazy Labor government has not returned the 110-kilometre per hour speed limit to the Warrego Highway on the Chinchilla to Dalby section or on the Surat to St George road, which were previously 110 kilometres per hour prior to the upgrades. Those roads are now safer—some with passing lanes. However, they are still 100 kilometres per hour. They should be returned to 110 kilometres per hour. Maybe the government are revenue raising on those roads.

Conversely, there needs to be the opportunity for some communities to lower their speed limits—for instance, at Yuleba, where we had a tragic fatality. I will keep fighting for funding for safety upgrades at intersections like the Jackson Wandoan Road on the Warrego Highway, the Landsborough Highway and the Main Street intersection at Augathella. I want to commend the Augathella Progress Association for the work that they have done in highlighting the need for that intersection upgrade.

There needs to be an emphasis on returning freight services to rail. There is a perfectly good railway line beside the Warrego Highway all the way from Quilpie to Brisbane. However, it carries no freight. I will keep fighting to get freight off the roads and onto rail, particularly where heavy freight should be targeted to go by rail.

My electorate has one of those very long-running insurance claims for the Angellala bridges. In 2014, the rail and road bridges were destroyed by an ammonium nitrate explosion. Now, five years later, we still have not heard the outcome of this insurance claim. Any funding that is received from this claim should be returned to the south-west people for the region's infrastructure and for the people of the south-west to determine how it will be allocated across their region.