




Speech By
Christopher Whiting

MEMBER FOR BANCROFT

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ADJOURNMENT

Bancroft Electorate, Federal Election

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (7.15 pm): In this election we have heard a lot locally about a congestion busting investment. It is really important for the local residents in our area because residents in Petrie can spend many hours in their cars going backwards and forwards from work. I have compared the two sides in the election and what I have found is that Labor are well out in front with their proposal. They are offering \$1.5 billion for a Gateway Motorway upgrade, the next stage of the Bruce Highway upgrade from Pine Rivers to Caboolture, including an upgrade at the Dohles Rocks intersection, and a new bridge over the Pine River with four feeder roads to get traffic off the highway. The LNP have offered the Gateway upgrade from four to six lanes from Bracken Ridge. I note there will be no construction for about three years, and I cannot see any construction for about three years on the Bruce Highway part as well.

The Labor proposal is a real game changer for commuters in our area because it contains a bridge over the Pine River. This is very much needed. The state has been proposing it for many years. It would take traffic from Deception Bay and North Lakes around the back of Mango Hill and North Lakes and over the river on to the Gateway Motorway. I have been chasing it for years and I thank the Minister for Main Roads for assisting me with this. Early design work has started on the route, but we really do need federal funding because it is such a large project. In the last state election, the LNP candidates talked it up. They said that we need those roads and bridges over the river, but we have heard nothing more. What we have seen from federal LNP is nothing offered on this as well.

Another reason why the Labor package is superior is because it includes Cross River Rail. Some LNP members opposite have derided it as a Brisbane-centric project, but in my area and the outer areas it represents a big change for commuters. It would fix a bottleneck in the system. It would open up extra capacity on our local rail. It would mean 5,400 extra peak hour commuter seats for our residents. I calculate that it would save about 1½ hours each week for a commuter travelling Monday to Friday to Brisbane and back. That is 1½ extra hours with their family they could get through Cross River Rail.

In conclusion, I have looked at both sides and it is very clear that the package outlined by Labor for congestion busting in our area is a real game-changer for all those residents in the Deception Bay, North Lakes and Burpengary East areas. I recommend the residents in my area take a close look at this before they vote on Saturday.