




Speech By
Daniel Purdie

MEMBER FOR NINDERRY

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Ninderry Electorate, Road Infrastructure

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (2.42 pm): I rise today to reflect on the federal budget and the direct relevance to major road infrastructure projects in my electorate. This year's federal budget represents a stark contrast to the Palaszczuk Labor government, whose failure to plan is failing Queenslanders and whose lack of economic credibility is also failing the next generation of Queenslanders. In stark contrast to the Palaszczuk Labor government, which is spiralling towards a state debt of \$83 billion, the coalition government has a plan to pay down debt while guaranteeing investment in infrastructure in our regions. In stark contrast to the Palaszczuk Labor government, which has left the heavy lifting to the federal coalition government when it comes to investing in our regional transport infrastructure, the federal government has announced \$4 billion in new infrastructure across the state. That is funding that will benefit my electorate, with \$241 million to majority fund stage 1 of the Bruce Highway-Maroochydore Road upgrade.

That brings me to another issue in my electorate where the Palaszczuk Labor government's failure to plan and failure to manage our state's economy is impacting daily on thousands of motorists. Its failure to commit funding to upgrade critical road infrastructure like the Coolum roundabout is failing my whole community. I appreciate the minister visiting Coolum recently to inspect this intersection and taking the time to view footage of the intersection at peak times. The footage shows traffic backing up onto the motorway, like it was that fateful day in August last year when a motorist was killed in a head-on collision caused by the congestion. The footage also shows that the congested roundabout restricts the ability of local emergency services to access the motorway, delaying their response times to critical incidents that are unfortunately becoming more frequent on our roads due to the coast's booming population. That congestion will only get worse with future approved developments and their proximity to the new Sunshine Coast international airport.

The roundabout, which was built 25 years ago when the local population was less than half what it is now, is the only entry point to the Coolum primary school, which is accessed by more than a thousand schoolkids every day. To its credit, in 2008 the then state Labor government identified that this intersection needed upgrading and undertook a planning study, which proposed a new interchange that would alleviate these issues. Unfortunately, there is no money and there is no longer any plan.

I am grateful that the minister has indicated he will look at local solutions to help alleviate these congestion and safety issues. Anything we can do in the short term to improve the situation is a step in the right direction. Unfortunately, until then we will continue to keep our fingers crossed that there are no more serious accidents as a result of this failing intersection.