




Speech By
Christopher Whiting

MEMBER FOR BANCROFT

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ADJOURNMENT

Coronavirus, Infrastructure Projects

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (6.13 pm): It is always a pleasure to follow the member for Nicklin and to hear the enlightenment! If the member is talking about ignoring things, I suggest he is ignoring what the Palaszczuk government delivered into his electorate of Nicklin. Can I remind him of the \$6.8 million to upgrade the Big Pineapple in Nicklin? That will be 35 construction jobs, as the member well knows, and 39 operational jobs. It will attract an extra 160,000 visitors a year and pump an extra \$4.5 million into the community up there.

Mr Hunt interjected.

Mr WHITING: That is fine. You are welcome, member for Nicklin. One of the most important things that we are doing in this time of COVID-19 is bringing in those COVID-19 related infrastructure projects, renewing and rebuilding what we are doing here in Queensland. Certainly, in our area a suite of infrastructure projects are being re-emphasised. I will go through a list, but why are they so important? It is because they are supporting local jobs for people in my area. Let us describe a few.

One that I am really excited about is the Moreton Connector that was announced last week. This is a \$2.1 billion congestion-busting road plan for the Moreton Bay and Brisbane north area. This is a jobs-boosting plan. It will become a new arterial road between Dohles Rocks Road at Murrumba Downs and Anzac Avenue at Mango Hill through the electorate of the Deputy Premier but will service many people in my electorate as well. This is only one part of the record \$23 billion roads and transport investment that we are seeing over the next four years.

The Gateway Motorway, Bruce Highway and Gympie Road are part of our area that collectively carry about 310,000 vehicles a day; that is, 100,000 more vehicles than on the busiest section of the M1. This investment will, once again, generate enormous numbers of jobs for our area. Those businesses locally that supply concrete and bitumen can also be a part of this wonderful project. I also point out the \$400 million announcement a few days ago of a road stimulus package. Once again, this means local jobs for people in Deception Bay and North Lakes. Let us also remember that \$662 million Bruce Highway to Caboolture—

(Time expired)