



Speech By  
**Shane King**


**MEMBER FOR KURWONGBAH**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### Bruce Highway Western Alternative

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (7.27 pm): I rise tonight to talk about the Bruce Highway Western Alternative, a significant future transport project that will run through parts of my electorate. Formal consultation for stage 2 of the Bruce Highway Western Alternative is now open until 2 September. This section runs from Moorina to Narangba.

I want to begin by reiterating that right now we are only conducting a planning study for a corridor. There is no money to build or even plan a road yet. While modelling indicates that we will need one in the future, we do not know when yet. We need to gazette a corridor to give current and future residents certainty about our long-term plans, to allow council to plan future developments and to enable impacted property owners to begin discussions about compensation.

I want to acknowledge that there will be people who are unhappy about this corridor regardless of its final path—and I understand that. It is my goal to make sure that number is as low as possible. That is why I want everyone to have their say through the official Transport and Main Roads consultation process. According to the Kurwongbah electoral roll, there are 13,220 enrolled voters and just over 6,500 households in the suburb of Narangba.

During the informal consultation process for stage 2 of the Bruce Highway Western Alternative, only 434 pieces of feedback were submitted. That is less than 3½ per cent of the Narangba adult population. What is more, not all comments came from people in the Narangba area. By contrast, around 1,300 people joined a Facebook group against the corridor. I sincerely hope every member of that Facebook group takes the opportunity to visit the TMR website or a consultation session and make a submission.

I want to point out that the final route will depend on not only community consultation but also technical studies, terrain constraints, wildlife and financial feasibility—which is why the consultation maps are not more detailed. I encourage people to stop circulating do-it-yourself maps which are adding more confusion and stress to our community. I also want to be very clear that I do not have the power to stop this corridor. My electorate is a beautiful place to live, and the Moreton Bay region is one of the fastest growing regions in Australia.

Balancing where population growth occurs with accessibility to community infrastructure and jobs is a challenge, and as a government it is our job to plan for the future. I do take very seriously my responsibility to represent community views, and I have been letting the minister and TMR staff know what my constituents have been telling me about the Bruce Highway western alternative. I have also been very vocal in my view that we should examine very carefully the possibility of using powerline corridors that run through western Narangba and eventually join up to Protheroe Road on the southern side of Dayboro Road. At this stage TMR has told me that the terrain is too difficult. I said, 'I don't care. I think we can work with it.' Sorry, Minister.

I acknowledge that I am an electrician and not a road engineer. There will be technical reasons why TMR has narrowed down the options to those presented for consultation. I would say to conspiracy theorists that they are not keeping anything secret from the minister or me. My advice is: Get on with it. Give your feedback to TMR, not Facebook.