




Speech By
Amanda Camm

MEMBER FOR WHITSUNDAY

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Whitsunday Electorate, Road Upgrade; Sexual Violence Awareness Month

 **Ms CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (2.36 pm): I bring to the attention of the House today a challenging situation that is evolving in my community of Cannonvale in the Whitsundays. We note that the federal Albanese government is undertaking a 90-day review of road projects, in particular across regional Queensland and other parts of the nation, but this road review is having an impact on existing projects. In the last several weeks I have visited over a dozen businesses that have been impacted by the Paluma Road to Tropic Road shared path upgrade project. It is a project that has commenced. There was \$2.6 million drawn from the Queensland road safety program. I have written to Minister Bailey to seek clarification. This project is the pre-works for the bigger upgrade Proserpine-Shute Harbour Road which is a project of \$31.6 million. It is important to note that neither of these projects are under the federal government's review, yet they have come to a grinding halt.

The initial project was about a shared pathway. Great news for all of our pedestrians: the pathway is finished, but we have a single lane of traffic into and out of Airlie Beach and Cannonvale. We have an exposed road base and we have at the moment significant congestion issues with traffic movements of 26,640 per day. Twenty-eight out of my 32 school buses from Airlie Beach and Cannonvale that transport children to Proserpine are being held up in traffic, which is causing significant delays. Whitsunday Transit, for the benefit of the transport minister, is contracted for public transport in the region and is continually late to meet ferries. This road project has come to a grinding halt. We have seen equipment moved and works completely stop on an intersection upgrade as well as access to driveways and businesses, who were happy to put up with the pain because they knew the long-term benefit was going to be substantial. At the moment it is dangerous and is causing significant disruption to commuter traffic, the tourism industry and public transport. I urge the minister to engage with his department and take up this matter.

I also want to highlight that October is Sexual Violence Awareness Month as well as Mental Health Awareness Month. Yesterday, with the Leader of the Opposition, I met with victim-survivors who shared their story at the launch of the Stronger, Wiser, Survivor art project delivered by QSAN. I congratulate the courage of all of those victim-survivors who come out and share their stories. We believe you and we hear you.