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FEDS DITCH PROMISE TO UPGRADE CUNNINGHAM HIGHWAY

The Howard Government has ditched a promise made in January to upgrade the Cunningham Highway to four lanes between Ripley and Amberley.

The decision will cost time, money and result in more serious accidents along the dangerous stretch of road. The road is dangerous carrying 13,000 vehicles a day on a stretch that twice drops from four lanes to two and has poor visibility.

In the last five years, 9 hospitalisations and three fatal accidents have occurred.

In January, Rachel Nolan called for the road to be upgraded after a fatal accident. A spokesman for Federal Roads Minister, Jim Lloyd said the funding had been committed in Auslink but the Minister has now backed away from the promise, instead accusing the Queensland Times of “misinterpreting the response”?

“This is a dangerous mistake, Ms Nolan said.

This is a federal road and while it remains in this state, Ipswich people will pay with their time and money in congestion and with their wellbeing through ongoing accidents”.

“The Federal Government are ignoring infrastructure in Ipswich.

While the Beattie Government is building an alternative Ipswich to Brisbane link by extending the Centenary Highway to Yamanto, the Howard Government is breaking promises and committing no funding to their deteriorating roads”