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MOTORWAY DELAYS IS COSTING TAX PAYERS MONEY

The Federal Government's seven year delay in providing funds to upgrade the Ipswich Motorway means that hundreds of millions of extra in taxpayers' money will be expended by the time the road is complete.

Today's Australian Financial Review reports that the road cost has blown out from the original \$660 million estimate early this decade to \$950 million now, up \$120 million even since last year.

The Federal Government and the then Transport Minister John Anderson, agreed in 1999 that 6 laning the Ipswich motorway was the way to go. On that basis they funded a six lane plan which included a network of service roads. The plan was completed early this decade.

Since then they have done nothing but prevaricate – and now the delays have pushed into a time of infrastructure and skills shortage.

Member for Ipswich Rachel Nolan said the cost blow out was purely a result of the Federal Government's delay "five years ago an agreed Ipswich Motorway plan was complete the road could then have been built quickly and cheaply, by stalling on this the Federal Government have pushed us into a time of skill shortages and infrastructure cost explosion. The road will now cost hundreds of millions of dollars more than it would have five years ago and tax payers will foot the bill."

Ms Nolan said the Ipswich motorway campaign had already seen 2,000 postcards returned by Ipswich Residents with more added in successful street stalls over the weekend. "The people of Ipswich are making their voices heard. They need this road fixed."