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Where do the Liberals stand on the Ipswich Motorway?

The new Liberal team need to reveal what their position is today on the Ipswich Motorway.

The Federal Government, through Member for Blair Cameron Thompson, says it is “committed” to bypassing the Ipswich Motorway. The bypass option was discredited by independent consultants Maunsells with a 2005 study which costed the bypass at more than \$1 billion.

The Commonwealth is currently spending \$10 million on a further feasibility study.

New State Liberal Leader Bruce Flegg, however, has a very different view.

Today, his website reads, “I will continue to oppose this (half northern bypass) proposal and urge an immediate upgrade of the existing Motorway.”

On June 13 2005, in response to an independent study which compared the 6 lane upgrade and bypass options, Mr Flegg said “the report made it clear motorists won’t see any benefit from a bypass road. For too many years meanwhile traffic would continue to mount, wreaking havoc for Ipswich and Brisbane residents. The most viable option is to upgrade the existing road to six lanes and add service roads.”

And on 19 May 2004 Mr Flegg was reported in The Courier Mail as saying “it’s well and good to back a new road but you have to find a corridor for it that is acceptable to the community and a northern option to the Ipswich Motorway is not acceptable to the community.”

Member for Ipswich Rachel Nolan said, “the Ipswich Motorway is a vital corridor affecting tens of thousands of people but the State and Federal Liberals seem to have totally different positions. What is their position today?”