



Speech by

Rachel Nolan

MEMBER FOR IPSWICH

Hansard Wednesday, 10 May 2006

IPSWICH MOTORWAY UPGRADE

Ms NOLAN (Ipswich—ALP) (10.28 am): The Ipswich Motorway is one of Australia's worst roads. It is dangerous, congested and ugly. In 1999, the federal government agreed in writing that the motorway should be six lanes along the existing route. That position is still endorsed by the state government, the RACQ, all 18 regional councils—including Campbell Newman—the state Liberal Party and the state opposition. Documents discovered recently under FOI further reveal that the federal transport department also backs that approach because it believes that the bypass option has 'fatal flaws'.

The people of Ipswich need this road upgraded. They risk their lives and waste their time while the road is in its current state. Next week, every household in my electorate will receive a postcard which contains a call on the Howard government to upgrade this deadly road. I ask people: if you want the road to be fixed, do something about it by filling in the card and sending it back. I say to the people of Ipswich that this is a real chance to make their voices heard.

I also call on members opposite to back the call. On 14 November 2005, Mr Quinn backed our position when he said, 'I'm not going to take on projects which are rightly the responsibility of the Commonwealth. They have to carry their share of the load.' Here, the Commonwealth government has the responsibility to upgrade the Ipswich Motorway. Mr Quinn was quite right. I ask him and his colleagues to stay the line. I ask them to back themselves and to back that position today by signing the motorway postcard.

Time expired.