



Speech by

Dr Mark Robinson

MEMBER FOR CLEVELAND

Hansard Thursday, 26 May 2011

REGIONAL QUEENSLAND, ROADS

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Cleveland—LNP) (5.33 pm): I rise to speak about the appalling state of the Bruce Highway and other main roads in regional Queensland and how this long-term Labor government has failed the people of regional Queensland when it comes to road infrastructure. Before going any further, I need to correct the spurious and misleading media release put out by the main roads minister today in which he falsely claimed 'LNP ducks roads debate in Mackay'.

Mr WALLACE: I rise to a point of order. I find those comments offensive and I ask them to be withdrawn.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The House will come to order.

Dr ROBINSON: I withdraw. It is clear for anyone who paid attention to parliament throughout the week that the opposition had a lot to say about the poor state of the Bruce Highway, both before and during parliament.

Mr Reeves: You didn't ask a question the whole week. No ticker, mate.

Dr ROBINSON: Just wait. In fact, the parliamentary week began for me on Sunday, when I travelled the Bruce Highway between Rockhampton and Mackay on a big rig. The journey highlighted the poor condition of the highway. I pointed out the need for overtaking lanes in particular and for more rest areas, among other things. My comments about the Bruce Highway built on the good work carried out by Central Queensland and North Queensland state MPs such as Ted Malone, Mirani; Rosemary Menkens, Burdekin; Andrew Cripps, Hinchinbrook; and Shane Knuth, Dalrymple; and, more recently, by LNP candidates such as Bruce Young, Keppel; and Jason Costigan, Whitsunday.

On Tuesday evening in parliament we debated a motion that condemned the government for failing to plan for and build key infrastructure in regional Queensland and recognised the significant increases in the cost of living that this failure has caused for all Queenslanders. In that debate the Leader of the Opposition addressed the issue of the poor condition of the Bruce Highway, including in Central Queensland, and he specifically mentioned Mackay.

Then in an MPI on Wednesday the member for Mirani, Ted Malone, mentioned the poor state of the Bruce Highway and the roads in the Mackay region after having received a petition from Michelle Leeson, a local girl, about the Bruce Highway. Other MPs also made reference to the poor state of regional roads in Queensland during the week.

Then there is the media that covered LNP comments before and during the week, including Channel 7 Rockhampton, Channel 7 Mackay, Win TV Mackay, ABC Capricornia, Southern Cross radio, 2SM, 4MK, the Rockhampton *Morning Bulletin*, the Mackay *Daily Mercury* and others. So how could the minister miss all of that and conclude that the LNP had no interest? The minister was either asleep during the whole week or was deliberately misleading the Queensland public.

I want to place on public record my gratitude to my driver who took me along the road on the big rig from Rocky to Mackay. I also want to thank the minister. Let me be fair. I want to thank the minister for at least finally heeding requests for more overtaking lanes and for a major truck stop along the Bruce Highway. It is a pity, though, that it took cajoling and public embarrassment before the government came to the party. On behalf of the residents of Rockhampton and Mackay, I do thank him for doing the bidding of the LNP.