

Letter to the editor.

I again need to set the record straight in regards to the Liberal member for Blair's letter (14/2/07) regarding the half bypass issue. It is no surprise that Mr Thompson is again found misleading the Ipswich community in a sad attempt to distract us from SEQ's number one road priority, the Ipswich Motorway.

My commitment and that of the ALP remains 100% to the full upgrade of the Ipswich Motorway. But at the same time we are capable of looking at other road issues and alternatives to alleviate the heavy burden on our roads.

Back in 2000 a report was issued by the State Government into the possibility of a Western Bypass which I publicly supported then and still do today. This bypass will provide a link from the Cunningham and Warrego highways to Brisbane and is not to be confused with the member for Blair's 'impossible' \$2.58 billion, 8km, half bypass loop between Dinmore and Gailes.

The Western Bypass is an ideal long term solution for many traffic problems directly in Ipswich and beyond.

D-day is fast approaching for this half bypass loop as Cameron Thompson promised tenders would be appointed by December last year. We also wait to see what comes next and when the rest of us will get to see the \$10 million report, which it appears that only Mr Thompson is privy to at this stage.

The Howard Government must get on with the job at hand which is fixing the motorway and providing a safer road environment for the people of Ipswich regardless of other road options.

Bernie Ripoll
Federal Member for Oxley