

YOUR SAY

The best reader comments from print and online

Long road to getting Bruce off the bad list



MY SAY
SHARYN O'NEILL
JOURNALIST

DOES Central Queensland count when it comes to the Queensland Government?

It is a question often asked regarding the condition of our highways, especially in comparison to the south-east corner and NSW.

It is certainly on the mind of truckie LR Lang who has been travelling the Bruce Highway weekly for 12 years.

Sharing the road is one topic he feels more drivers need to be aware of, especially in reference to the physics of a truck.

One way to make the highways safer would be to increase it to four lanes. That is part of the long term vision, with Department of Main Roads and Transport keeping data on the current daily usage.

According to their numbers though, we won't need a four-lane highway for another 20 to 30 years. That's a bit of a wait.

We continue with our Fix the Bruce campaign in today's edition, looking at the problems our readers face with the Bruce Highway and ask our politicians to take notice.

I ask you to please write in and tell us your issues.

For us here at The Morning Bulletin we no longer want 'The Bruce' to be rated the number one worst road in the state.

We want something done to get it off that list.

It is not just something we think is a good idea.

People's livelihoods depend on it. Judging by road statistics, so do their lives.

I understand building a road is expensive and I am all for the widening of roads and extra overtaking lanes.

But I think their clear plan for the future is much too hazy in the distance.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Is the Prime Minister suffering a form of electile dysfunction?

THE TURNBULL government has achieved something that has not been done in 50 years.

On Thursday they lost a vote in the house of representatives.

Something that the Gillard government never had the misfortune of happening to them, despite being in a minority situation for three years.

Why is this happening to them? Of course it will all be Labor's fault or the Unions' fault.

Maybe it is the fact they are so out of touch with what the people want?

The polls show that the majority of Australians support Royal Commission

into the banking and financial services sector.

As well, that the majority of us support marriage equality without a plebiscite.

Any government that resists the will of the people on important social issues eventually loses.

And how Turnbull is going to get anything through the Senate goodness only knows.

Wasn't this Double Dissolution election to restore functional government?

Surely our flaccid prime minister must now view the whole exercise as a serious case of electile dysfunction?

— Robert Forsythe
Glenlee



Minister for Social Services Christian Porter and Minister for Immigration Peter Dutton after they returned to the House of Representatives following the government losing two divisions in their early absence on Thursday night. PHOTO: MICK TSIKAS

Thank you to the Rocky community

ON BEHALF of everyone at the McGrath Foundation, we'd like to say a huge thank you to the Rockhampton community for getting behind our winter #PullOnYourSocks initiative.

Thank you to Fitzroy Basin Association and Fatz Fabrication for their fantastic efforts.

They are one of more than 200 clubs, schools and businesses who got their local community involved, donning the McGrath Foundation's pink socks and to date helping raise a collective sum of close to \$300,000.

All funds raised help us place McGrath Breast Care

“funds raised help us place McGrath Breast Care Nurses across the country

Nurses across the country, providing specialised care, free of charge, to families experiencing breast cancer.

It also helps us to increase breast awareness in young people.

And now that the cricket season is bowling in, we're looking forward to seeing the amazing Pink Stumps Day efforts of the Rockhampton community.

For more information or to register, head online to mcgrathfoundation.com.au/pinkcricket.

Together we can make a difference!

— Petra Buchanan
CEO, McGrath Foundation

Using catch poles on dogs the last resort

I WOULD like to make comment regarding the misuse of the dog catch pole used by the RRC.

This was following a complaint from a member of the public who obviously has been traumatised when she witnessed a dog being dragged by the neck unable to stand up with a noose from the catch pole tight around it neck across two house blocks on a public

footpath and then lifted with all legs off the ground still with the noose tight around its neck into the the back of the council vehicle.

The catch pole is meant as a very last resort for the implications mentioned in the RSPCA handbook on its use. I have a copy of that handbook.

It would appear that this could be a case of official misconduct and it is not the first time that dogs have been mistreated by the catch pole used by the RRC.

I have been given further evidence to the fact and still remain myself traumatised and angered by these photos.

The council clearly has breached the duty of care under the Animal Care and

Protection Act Qld page 19 Chapter 3 part 1(b) and Part 2 page 20 Animal Cruelty 1 and 2 (a)(c) and in all probability (f). Council is not excused from this lawful act.

The excuse given by council is that the officer was bitten.

This has been refuted by the witness and nothing was mentioned to the dog owner that the dog had bitten someone when he went to collect it from the pound.

This has far more serious implications than what appears on the surface.

Any person with the appropriate qualification and experience (the RRC CEO claims they have animal management qualifications) would know

FIND OUT WHAT IS HAPPENING IN DAYS LIKE THESE WITH

A case of populate or perish



THE FRENCH LESSON
DAVID FRENCH

PRAISE directed at this column is more often than not accompanied by the rejoinder that it doesn't consider people's feelings. "You'd do better if you didn't annoy people", is a common piece of advice.

Over many years in business and government, I've formed a firm view that this advice is patently

wrong. Indeed, my view is that you are unlikely to achieve anything at all unless you upset a few people.

Clearly that's a heretical thought in our touch-feely era of bringing everyone along' and 18C style damnation of free speech, but what do you do when you spent the time and effort to understand issues, to join groups, to discuss and still people refuse to budge?

What is the mechanism to facilitate change, in an era where populist sentiment supports, for example, spending \$6 billion dollars a

year on the indigenous problem and dismisses the studied, practical and proven suggestions and efforts of people like Noel Pearson.

Here in Central Queensland, we have a community suffering perhaps the most serious economic downturn in memory. We have had no effective economic leadership in our region for years and the popular belief of many is that council should stick to roads, rates and sewers, that ours is not a tourist region and that it's not worth investing in arts based activities like

historical museums.

Lately it does seem that council has started to challenge this mindset. The River Festival is an unequivocally sound initiative, as is the development of the off road cycling track at Mount Archer. The appointment of a Melbourne based consultant gets away from the problem of being a prophet in your own village. In the non-government sector, the Confraternity Shield and Challenge the Mountain are great examples of valuable initiatives that can attract people to our region.

It's not enough. Council and business needs to become far more far-sighted, determined and aggressive. We need a serious influx of people to the region, 10,000 or more over five years say. Aimed at self-funded retirees, 'Target 10,000' should become the mantra of the council, supported by tangible incentives.

Over the years our region has lost much of its historical commercial advantage. A growing population means jobs. If we don't grasp the nettle now, the results will be all our own doing.