



MARK McARDLE MP

SHADOW MINISTER FOR HEALTH
MEMBER FOR CALOUNDRA



MEDIA RELEASE

Northbound exit to Aussie World is critical

Member for Caloundra Mark McArdle today joined Steve Amos, the owner of the Aussie World Garage and Mike Doreshenko at Aussie World to raise concerns about the impending closure of the northbound exit 190 route.

“There are many businesses located at this complex and surrounds which depend upon local and tourist traffic to fund their businesses and meet their families’ personal expenses.

“The plan to upgrade the Caloundra Interchange is not in dispute. What is in question is why a better plan cannot be put in place to protect the businesses that operate in this area.

“I was heartened to read yesterday in a media release that the State Minister for Main Roads has; *“instructed the Department to work with contractors through this next phase to further minimise impacts to the Beerwah State Forest and improve access to businesses in the Aussie World precinct,”*.

“While heartened by that, it is not a commitment to protect the livelihood of people who work and own businesses in the Aussie World area, Mr McArdle said.

Owner of the Aussie World Garage Mr Steve Amos said “mine is the only true independent service station on the Bruce Highway from Brisbane to Maryborough that provides a solid alternative to the users of the Bruce Highway. The drastic change of our North and Southbound access will effectively remove us from the highway and remove our ability to remain in business.



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“As we have petitioned on numerous occasions, we the businesses directly affected by the deletion of Exit 190, would like to see direct access retained to allow us to keep our businesses, and the people we employ, functioning long term.

“A better alternative for our community and the rainforest along Steve Irwin Way has to be found. Easy access without destruction of environment and community has to be achievable allowing a balanced result for all those involved and not just one party,” Mr Amos said.

“I accept that change has to occur but change must take into account existing businesses and tourism operators that draw heavily from traffic heading North on the Bruce Highway,” said Mr McArdle.

“The current proposal has people travelling away from Aussie World before they can access a road to get back to Aussie World - that is ridiculous and a lose/lose situation.

“I am calling upon the Minister for Main Roads to ensure these businesses are protected,” concluded Mr McArdle.

[ENDS] FRIDAY 11 SEPTEMBER

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