

# LNP pledges \$8m for Innisfail bridge

## Provided they win the next federal election, of course

JOHN HUGHES

Liberal National Party politicians, political candidates and officials were out in force on Tuesday with a great deal of their focus on the contentious Jubilee Bridge replacement at Innisfail.

By the evening, when a public meeting was held at the El Arish Memorial Hall to discuss the bridge, the LNP's support had firmed into an \$8 million commitment — dependent of course on the Coalition winning the next federal election.

Current Nationals leader, Warren Truss indicated the LNP's support for a replacement bridge early in the day when he said the bridge would be "a prime candidate for the Coalition's Strategic Regional Roads Program".

That program was shut down by the Rudd Labor Government but would be reinstated under a Coalition Government.

Accompanying Mr Truss was the LNP's candidate for the Federal electorate of Kennedy, Ed Morrison.

The firming up of the commitment was announced at El Arish by Sena-

tor Ron Boswell and confirmed by Mr Morrison.

The present Member for Kennedy, Bob Katter, had a few minutes earlier stated the current Federal Labor Government was unlikely to find funding for the bridge project but it was more likely to find funding under the Black Spot Program to improve road conditions along the Bruce Highway through Innisfail.

Both during the El Arish meeting and earlier in the day when interviewed by the *Tully Times*, Mr Katter slammed former State Member for Mulgrave

Warren Pitt for failing to procure the required funds to replace the bridge, particularly during his period as State Main Roads minister.

The speaker following Mr Katter at the El Arish meeting was current Member for Mulgrave (and son of the former member) Curtis Pitt.

Mr Pitt said the Jubilee Bridge had been local government's responsibility for 30 years.

"This is not a State Government matter but we have put money on the table," Mr Pitt said.

"The State Government's commit-

ment has gone from \$6 million to \$12 million.

"We all know the financial problems of the Cassowary Coast Regional Council and I am pleased to hear Bob Katter is seeking federal funding."

### ... PUBLIC MEETING

Tuesday's public meeting, was called by the Innisfail and District Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Tourism.

*Continued page 2.*