



Speech by

**Mr T. SULLIVAN**

**MEMBER FOR CHERMSIDE**

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Hansard 17 September 1998

### **NUNDAH BOTTLENECK**

**Mr SULLIVAN** (ChermSIDE—ALP) (10:50 p.m.): Funding for roads projects can be a complex process. We are used to the Budget allocations in which we see where the major project funding occurs. But what happens if the Minister or the Cabinet makes a decision in between Budgets? What happens is that in the RIP update—the Roads Implementation Plan update—the new funding is allocated.

Unfortunately, what we have seen with the Nundah bottleneck is that this did not occur because in December 1995 the then Minister, Jim Elder, allocated the money for the start and early completion of the bypass of the Nundah bottleneck. Unfortunately, just when the RIP update was due in February/March 1996, the Borbidge Government came to power and froze the Budget allocation. We know that the money would have been allocated in the RIP update because the Goss Government had done that the year before. In the 1995 update the Goss Government had allocated something like an extra \$70m, including funding for rural roads. This funding was not in the initial Budget. That is how the process worked.

The Borbidge Government stopped that funding for the Nundah bottleneck. If the coalition had continued with the RIP update and allocated the money, the Nundah bottleneck project would be 12 to 24 months more advanced. The business people of that area would be happier. It is a shame that the member for Clayfield, Santo Santoro—who claims to be the friend of business—was part of the Cabinet that shot that allocation to bits and put the completion of the Nundah bypass back by at least 12 months.

The Beattie Government has allocated \$3.6m towards that project. This contrasts with the \$2.8m that the coalition proposed for this project in its Capital Works Program. We know that the overall amount of \$35.2m stays the same. It is a shame, though, that the inactivity——

Time expired.

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