



Speech by

Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR STAFFORD

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WESTERN BRISBANE TRANSPORT NETWORK INVESTIGATION

Mr HINCHLIFFE (Stafford—ALP) (11.42 am): I wish to acknowledge the Western Brisbane Transport Network Investigation study, as ministers have mentioned this morning, and the network improvement options that have been put out for community comment. I advise the House that, on behalf of northside residents, I recognise the great opportunity that some of the proposed improvements represent in terms of returning our roads to the local communities.

I will work with northsiders to campaign to have as much as possible of any new road along the Trouts Road corridor built underground. Traffic is a major issue for the northside. We need dedicated options—especially tunnels—that get people where they need to go. Although the Trouts Road corridor has been preserved since the 1980s and identified in the Refidex, I understand locals may be concerned about the impact that a road might have on their quality of life.

I have made it clear to my community and to government ministers that I think any new road should be built underground where possible to minimise disruption to the community and thus allow the remaining land to be returned to community use—either for family homes or, where appropriate, for green space. Further, I welcome consideration of a through-traffic tunnel under the length of Stafford Road. Returning this important road to the community of the inner northside would be a tremendous improvement for Stafford.

The opportunities that such projects allow—in terms of a further enhancement to the commitment of this government to the northern busway along the Gympie Road corridor through the heart of my electorate—cannot be underestimated. I encourage all northsiders to get involved and have their say on the Western Brisbane Transport Network Investigation. I note that the term 'western Brisbane' may confuse people because they think west is anywhere west of where they live. We need to be engaged in this as northsiders. I encourage them all to complete an online survey, to visit the staff displays—including the one at Westfield Chermside from 6 to 10 May—and, finally and most importantly, to get involved.