



Speech by

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MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE

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KURILPA BRIDGE

Mr LANGBROEK (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (12.05 pm): This morning, we have had two ministers, the Minister for Public Works and the Minister for Main Roads, dancing around issues to do with the new Kurilpa Bridge—the Tank Street Bridge—relating to safety, design and traffic. This bridge has been listed in the budget papers since 2005-06 as costing \$63.5 million. We know the old saying of, 'Those who fail to learn from history are condemned to repeat it'. Let us have a look at what was said the last time a government—the Beattie government—built a pedestrian bridge, and that was the Goodwill Bridge.

We all know that the Goodwill Bridge was such a triumph for the Beattie government. That bridge was originally costed at \$8 million, then it was costed at \$13 million and then it was costed at \$23 million. Let us look at some of the information that came out when the then Premier announced it on 4 May 1999. He stated—

Reducing traffic congestion ... has got to be a feature of any long-term planning for the future of Brisbane.

Of course, we have heard the Minister for Main Roads saying that the government has not yet decided on whether they are going to close the access to the Riverside Expressway from North Quay, which means that we could have problems with traffic congestion. Would that not have been an issue when they were talking about building this Kurilpa Bridge?

On 29 May 2001, then Minister Barton stated—

It has been necessary to make various adjustments to the original design for both practical reasons and to improve its overall performance.

That is what happened with the Goodwill Bridge and that is exactly what we are seeing now with this new Kurilpa Bridge. The minister said that a report on the bridge reassured everyone. The report from McCormick Rankin Cagney states—

It is understood the tensegrity structure does not have the resistance characteristics of a typical concrete bridge structure if struck by a moving vehicle... Therefore vehicles need to be prevented from striking the structure.

The bridge is not as strong as it could be. That lot opposite do not know what they are doing. They cannot plan, they cannot build, they cannot budget, they cannot deliver. All we get from the Premier, the Deputy Premier and the Treasurer are songs from the seventies and speeches from the thirties. The people of Queensland deserve better.