




Speech By
Hon. Curtis Pitt

MEMBER FOR MULGRAVE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Market-Led Proposals

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (2.16 pm): I am pleased to update the House on the progress of our market-led proposals framework. Since the budget we have had over 28 submissions to the market-led proposals initiative, which is a great start. The framework recognises that, while encouraging competition in selection and procurement is always preferable, there are situations where unique proposals can bring benefits. The framework allows for the government to pursue an exclusive engagement with those unique proposals which meet the government's criteria. We have streamlined the assessment process to make it easier to engage with government.

Today I am very pleased to inform the House of the first cab off the rank for market-led proposals, an almost half-billion dollar investment in our road network. This morning I announced with Minister Bailey and local MPs, the members for Woodridge, Algester, Logan and Stretton, a new proposal for a series of upgrades along the Logan Motorway-Gateway extension corridor led by Transurban. This has been approved to proceed to the detailed assessment stage under our market-led proposals framework.

This proposal includes interchange upgrades at key congestion and accident hot spots, widening parts of the Gateway Motorway extension and the construction of some new ramps to ease congestion and improve safety and efficiency for all motorists including heavy vehicles. The proposed works address major congestion and road safety issues currently experienced on the Mount Lindesay Highway and Wembley Road interchanges. The proposed works are valued at approximately \$450 million. The expected cost to the state is zero dollars.

The Logan Enhancement Project is a great example of government helping industry to bring their ideas to fruition and to show that Queensland is open for business. We recognise and appreciate the efforts Transurban has gone to in bringing forward its initial proposal. The state's assessment team for the detailed proposals phase will be led by Queensland Treasury and supported by the Department of Transport and Main Roads. During this period, Transurban will provide the state with further information to assess the merits of the project. The project is expected to support more than 1,300 jobs during construction and generate more than \$1.2 billion in economic benefits for Queenslanders.

Transurban proposes to fund the upgrades through toll increases for trucks across the Logan and Gateway motorways. There will also be a new toll facility for motorists if they choose to use the proposed new south-facing ramps at Compton Road. Motorists will not be forced to use any new tolling points and will have access to alternative routes via the existing toll-free road network. Motorists who use existing toll routes and continue to use the same routes will not see an increase in tolls as a result of this project.

A range of stakeholders have already outlined their support for the project including the RACQ, the Queensland Trucking Association and the Queensland Transport and Logistics Council. I stress that there will be further broad consultation over this next stage. It is expected that we will receive Transurban's final proposal in late 2016, at which time we will decide whether to proceed with the proposal, modify it or consider other options. I encourage more proposals like it because, unlike those opposite, we are open for business.

This project fits in well within the framework of the Draft State Infrastructure Plan released this week by the Deputy Premier. This is exactly how the State Infrastructure Plan is meant to work. The State Infrastructure Plan identifies our committed one- to four-year investments from government, then identifies opportunities over the longer term that we want to see the private sector partner with us on and look at innovative funding models. I look forward to seeing this project and other market-led proposals like it come to fruition under this government, because we are getting on with the job.