




Speech By
Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR YEERONGPILLY

Record of Proceedings, 8 August 2017

MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Yeerongpilly Electorate

 **Mr BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (12.48 pm): With the new boundaries for the next term in parliament now determined, my current seat of Yeerongpilly has been adjusted to include the suburbs of Chelmer, Graceville and Sherwood and the other half of Tennyson. It has been renamed the seat of Miller after the great Emma Miller—the renowned suffragette who campaigned successfully for equal rights for women in our state.

Having now had many, many discussions with residents in those suburbs, easily the most significant issue is traffic congestion during the morning and afternoon peak hours across the single lane on the Walter Taylor Bridge. Those mammoth traffic jams, and I say that advisedly—and I table a number of photographs now for the benefit of the Legislative Assembly—go far beyond where the eye can see along Oxley Road, Wharf Street and Honour Avenue.

Tabled paper: Two photographs depicting traffic congestion on Oxley Road, Chelmer and on Wharf Street, Chelmer [\[1234\]](#).

This single lane across the Brisbane River is the only access between the CBD and Centenary. That is correct: there is only one lane of traffic to get across the river for half of our city between the CBD and Centenary. That is unsustainable. It has been ignored by the LNP city council for too long and requires action. The LNP council has had a clear majority for a decade and the mayoralty of Brisbane for 13 years and more. The Walter Taylor Bridge and local road networks are 100 per cent their responsibility and yet we have seen absolutely nothing from them.

They have ignored the Chelmer, Graceville, Sherwood and Tennyson communities for many four-year terms in office going back to the mayoralty of Campbell Newman and including the current mayor, Graham Quirk, and a number of years when Campbell Newman's right-hand man, the member for Clayfield, Tim Nicholls, was a councillor on the Brisbane City Council and in the civic cabinet as the councillor for the Hamilton ward. Yet the LNP city council is very happy to approve seven-storey buildings in nearby Sherwood and pocket the rates windfall from it.

Do they spend it in the local area to upgrade infrastructure to deal with the extra traffic that they are causing? Of course they do not. They spend it and much more—\$650 million, in fact—turning Kingsford Smith Drive in Ascot—coincidentally in the electorate of Clayfield, the seat of the current opposition leader who is a former close colleague of Graham Quirk and Campbell Newman—from two lanes into three lanes. Meanwhile in my part of the city the one lane at Walter Taylor Bridge is absolutely ignored by the Brisbane City Council. This northside pork barrel of old LNP councillor mates—Graham Quirk, Campbell Newman and opposition leader Tim Nicholls—with more than half a billion dollars of ratepayer funds is a disgrace at the expense of every local resident of Graceville, Chelmer, Sherwood and Tennyson.

Even if a decision were made today, it would be at least four years before anything was built, with traffic worsening every year. The neglect set in long ago during Campbell Newman's reign as mayor between 2004 and 2011 when nothing happened at all. When it comes to this part of the city,

the LNP has a disgraceful record of neglect, ripping off the area, approving high-density development in Sherwood and spending southside ratepayers' funds on the north side at the expense of local amenity. Has the current three-term LNP state member for Indooroopilly stood up for his local constituents to his own party in the city council? Not at all—not a word. In stark contrast, it was great to see real community advocates Ali King and Jess Pugh at the public meeting on Saturday that I called in Graceville with 100 people attending. The member for Indooroopilly was nowhere to be seen and neither was the current LNP candidate who ignored the issue as well.

There is strong public support for a second bridge on the downstream side of the current bridges. The large majority LNP city council needs to stop neglecting Chelmer, Graceville, Sherwood and Tennyson, get on with it and do some design and engineering work to look at solutions including how to best integrate it with local road networks for the best community outcome. That work needs to be put out to the community for genuine two-way consultation to ensure the community benefits fully from any project and to ensure the best possible outcome locally.

This matter must no longer be neglected and ignored by the LNP city council, which has sat on its hands and funnelled large sums of ratepayer funds to the north side. I call on the LNP city council to do their job, stop ignoring proposed Miller electorate residents and current Indooroopilly electorate residents in Chelmer, Sherwood, Graceville and Tennyson, let alone the broader community on the south side in communities like Oxley, Corinda and north of the river in Indooroopilly and surrounding suburbs. I say to the council and to Councillor Simmonds, who says that we have to wait a lot longer, 'Let's get the work done. Let's integrate it with nearby roadwork and get cracking because you have ignored the area for long enough.'