



Speech By  
**Dr Christian Rowan**


**MEMBER FOR MOGGILL**

---

Record of Proceedings, 13 June 2018

**MOTION**

**Toll Roads**

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (5.35 pm): I rise to support the motion moved by the shadow minister for transport and main roads, the member for Chatsworth, with respect to an inquiry and report on the operation of toll roads in Queensland. It is a great motion moved by the LNP. It is common sense. It shows that the LNP has listened to motorists out there. I congratulate the shadow minister for showing this leadership. In contrast, the response of the Minister for Transport and Main Roads before tonight has been deafening silence—total and absolute silence—about those motorists who have been taken for a ride by Labor. It is great to see the minister and various Labor members getting on board, but they have not been on board before tonight.

Queensland's toll collection company govia—now rebranded Linkt—has been the subject of more than 48 per cent of all complaints made to the national Tolling Customer Ombudsman since 2015. That is an important date, given that 2015 was when the Palaszczuk Labor government was elected. The Queensland Minister for Transport and Main Roads also received a briefing note showing that in some reporting periods Transurban received more complaints than any other toll operator in Australia. It has only been the government's Labor member for Bundamba who has previously called out the conduct of Transurban. One of her constituents had 70 unpaid tolls and was stung with a bill of \$20,000. At that time the Minister for Transport and Main Roads said that the Palaszczuk Labor government was getting a new ICT system, but two years later that system has not been delivered. We know that Labor always fails. They fail to deliver, just like their budget this week with more taxes, higher debt and unemployment.

Queensland needs an inquiry to identify failures in the network and ascertain how these issues can be solved in order to cut untimely traffic congestion. The Palaszczuk Labor government's first term saw a cut in infrastructure of \$3 billion a year, including \$400 million in cuts to the road budget in the last year of that term alone. This was while mandating increased new housing targets as part of the South East Queensland Regional Plan. That has led to unsustainable urban development and even more traffic congestion, including in the electorate of Moggill and across the entire western suburbs of Brisbane.

Residents in the western suburbs of Brisbane are subjected to increasing traffic congestion each and every day. It is unsustainable, unfair and it must be fixed. Yesterday we once again saw this Labor government not commit to funding any sustainable integrated road and public transport plan for the western suburbs of Brisbane or building and delivering much needed road infrastructure improvements and public transport to ease traffic congestion on Moggill Road.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members, please bring your conversations down in volume or leave the chamber. I am having difficulty hearing some parts of the member's contribution.

**Dr ROWAN:** It is not just the cost of lost productivity; it also costs each one of us valuable time every day as we sit in traffic for extended periods rather than being at home with our families. There is an economic cost, a social cost and also concerns about excess pollution, particularly with respect to schoolchildren and pedestrians on Moggill Road. We must remember that Labor has been in power in Queensland for almost an entire generation—in fact, 25 of the past 29 years—and our roads have progressively become worse. Successive Labor governments have failed to address these mounting issues and Labor has ultimately failed Queensland. We must plan for the future.

**Government members** interjected.

**Dr ROWAN:** Those opposite do not like hearing it. They do not like the fact that they have not planned road and public transport infrastructure in the western suburbs of Brisbane.

I heard the member for Mount Ommaney talk about the Sumners Road interchange upgrade. That is important, but certainly with the population growth that is occurring at Springfield, in the Centenary suburbs and across the entire western suburbs region there is a total lack of leadership and vision by this state Labor government to work with other levels of government to implement a comprehensive road and public transport plan.

**Mr Bailey** interjected.

**Dr ROWAN:** I hear the Minister for Transport and Main Roads interjecting. He does not like hearing it, but he has no vision, no plan and no funding. He and his colleagues have delivered a state budget that will mean higher taxes, debt and unemployment for the state of Queensland.

We know that almost half of all toll complaints to the ombudsman have come from drivers in South-East Queensland. It is good that the government is getting on board. It is good that the minister is getting on board. It is good that the Labor members who have spoken in the debate of this motion are getting on board. I encourage the crossbench, including the member for Maiwar, to get on board as well. This is what drivers and motorists are talking about. We also need an integrated, comprehensive road and public transport plan for the western suburbs of Brisbane.