




Speech By
Jessica Pugh

MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY

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**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL; REVENUE
LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL; BETTING TAX BILL**

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (12.19 am): Today I rise to speak to my first budget as the member for Mount Ommaney. This budget is the result of working for what Mount Ommaney residents have been telling me for the last five years. At the outset I want to thank the Premier, the Deputy Premier and the ministers who have worked with me and listened to me as I have shamelessly asked for more for Mount Ommaney.

Over the last two elections as my team and I doorknocked over 10,000 homes one issue came up constantly in every part of the electorate—fix the congestion. It is a message I have heard over and over again. Indeed, it is something that I experience firsthand every day as I traverse from my home in Oxley along the Ipswich Motorway through to the Centenary Motorway before I get off at the Sumners Road overpass and drop my children at Middle Park State School. I know just how bad the congestion is because, like everyone else in my community, I sit in it each and every day alongside them.

When I continue my commute into the city it is over an hour in traffic, much of it spent trying to get out of the Centenary suburbs or, as it is not so fondly known by locals, the Centenary car park. Sometimes I feel like I am in the twilight zone sitting in bumper-to-bumper traffic until I hit the Jindalee bridge, where the traffic suddenly starts moving freely. This budget recognises the frustration and the lost productivity created by this gridlock and commits to getting something done. This budget locks in key projects for the south-west corridor right in the heart of Mount Ommaney.

Firstly, the long-awaited Sumners Road overpass starts construction this year, with the \$14.9 million in the budget committed to getting this critical piece of infrastructure underway. With 35,000 cars a day using this piece of infrastructure, this bridge is a conduit to the thriving business hubs of Sumner Park and Darra. It is due in part to the great success of businesses like White Lies microbrewery in Sumner Park, Oz Wagtails doggy day care on the eastern side of the bridge and Centenary Landscaping in Darra that traffic across the bridge has grown by more than 10 per cent since the overpass was first mooted almost 10 years ago. That is how long Centenary residents have been waiting to get this project started and, finally, the finish line is in sight.

The Sumners Road overpass design features a doubling of capacity, with an additional two-lane bridge across the motorway and new traffic lights to stop the traffic coming off the Centenary Motorway heading to the industrial park of Darra, which cuts off the traffic coming from the Centenary area. These small businesses and the many locals that they employ deserve our support, and that is why we are getting moving on this project as soon as possible. I cannot wait to see this project get underway later this year. With 80,000 cars a day, the Centenary Motorway in the Centenary suburbs is also growing more congested by the day. Locals know that the Jindalee on-ramp is the key to unlocking this logjam, so we, the Palaszczuk government, are getting on with progressing a business case to upgrade this choke point. As a former Jindalee resident I have watched as year after year this road gets worse, so I am thrilled to be announcing that the business case is underway so that Mount Ommaney locals can get to work on time and make it back to their kids by the 6 pm pick-up.

Mr Pegg: Good work, Jess.

Ms PUGH: I thank the member for Stretton. In this budget the \$4 million business case has received an additional \$16 million boost, bringing the total budget so far to \$20 million to fix the Centenary Motorway. As I said, for the many residents who sit on this congested road every day like I did this morning, it cannot come soon enough.

Locals will be aware that the Ipswich Motorway upgrade is well and truly underway between Rocklea and Oxley. With 85,000 cars a day slowly crawling along this stretch of road during peak hour that starts before seven and finishes well after nine, the finish of these works cannot come soon enough for my electorate. However, we cannot just rely on roads to build our way out of congestion. We need to encourage commuters to use public transport too. That is why Darra train station has been identified as a key regional transport hub for the south-west region.

We have been given \$3 million of a total of \$8.7 million for design and planning, adding an extra 180 car parks to have a total of 441 car parks for commuters at Darra. This, combined with the Sumners Road overpass upgrade, will create much easier access to the Darra train station for Centenary residents who want to use public transport to get into the city. As it is only a 22-minute express service into the city, that is a very attractive option. However, many female commuters have told me that a current lack of car parks with adequate lighting deter them from catching the train at Darra as they do not want to walk down dark streets to their cars. This upgrade is going to go a long way to address this.

Likewise, it can also take 20 minutes or more just to drive the few short kilometres from Centenary suburbs like Middle Park to Darra and to find a park. The Palaszczuk government understands that we cannot fix congestion without a multipronged approach, and I am proud to have lobbied hard for these vital upgrades to our area and I thank the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Minister Bailey, for his assistance in this area. This local commitment will be supported by the Palaszczuk government's \$5.4 billion commitment to build the Cross River Rail, providing more express services like the one we enjoy from Darra in order to get cars off our roads. As a former small business manager in the southern end of the CBD, I am also thrilled that it will unlock the Alice and Albert Street stretch of the CBD, which is almost one kilometre from the nearest train station. It is hard to fathom that some parts of the CBD are a kilometre's walk from the nearest public transport hub. The Cross River Rail is desperately needed by the southern end of the CBD and I encourage everyone to support this vital infrastructure.

I am also very proud that our firefighters will be getting a major upgrade to the Mount Ommaney station. We have committed \$1.45 million to a major upgrade of our fire station to ensure our fireys can get to emergencies in our local communities sooner. Our emergency services personnel do an outstanding job and they deserve to have the best infrastructure to help them service our state, so as the member for Mount Ommaney I am thrilled to be part of a team that is getting Mount Ommaney moving to work, to school and to home. However, we need to make sure that the next generation of Queenslanders has access to the best quality education to get those jobs as you would well appreciate, Madam Deputy Speaker McMillan, and that is why both high schools in my electorate are receiving substantial cash injections to expand and update their facilities. Centenary State High School is a fantastic multicultural school that prides itself on offering pathways to excellence for every student. Principal John Brew and his amazing team of teaching staff understand that every child is different and every child deserves a chance to shine.

Centenary State High School is such a popular school that it is bursting at the seams. We have budgeted \$8.5 million to build a new multistorey learning centre. This centre will nurture the talents of students such as the youth member for Mount Ommaney, Francesca Hellmuth. I also want to give a shout-out to the parent body of Centenary State High School who worked tirelessly to air-condition the remaining classrooms for their students. Their children and we as a community thank them for their dedication.

Under the leadership of principal Helen Jamieson, Corinda State High School has gone from strength to strength. Earlier this year, it was a pleasure to take Minister Grace to visit the teachers as they made their preparations to get back to school. Minister Grace could see that this bustling school, with its agriculture program, complete with its own on-site farm—

Mr Costigan: What school is that?

Ms PUGH: I take that interjection from the member for Whitsunday. It is Corinda State High School. The member for Whitsunday should listen more carefully. The school's agriculture program and its science program continue to make it a great example of why state schools are great schools. That is why Corinda State High School will benefit from a \$10 million cash injection to upgrade and expand its facilities.

The state high schools in my electorate are a source of enormous personal pride to me. I think they are two exemplary examples of giving every Queensland child access to a quality education that ensures that they have every opportunity in life, whether that is in agriculture, the arts, or by studying for a science degree, as is Dhruv Singh, who is one of Corinda State High School's school captains. He is currently undertaking tertiary education at the University of Queensland while pursuing his year 12 studies.

I came to parliament with a clear set of priorities for my electorate informed by thousands of conversations with locals, the support of my wonderful volunteers and my own priorities as a parent, a local and a small business employee. I am immensely proud of what this budget has delivered for Mount Ommaney. I commend the bill to the House.