




Speech By
Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR SANDGATE

Record of Proceedings, 15 November 2018

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Gateway Upgrade North Project

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (2.50 pm): As we head towards the end of 2018, I am keen to address the House on the progress of the Gateway Upgrade North project, which is located largely in my electorate but also in the electorate of the member for Nudgee. That project is not only delivering great benefits for the road network on the north side of Brisbane but also delivering work for people on the north side of Brisbane.

I am very proud that the Palaszczuk Labor government has been so strongly committed to this project, with a contribution of \$228.54 million. When the federal member for Lilley, Wayne Swan, was treasurer, he committed the then Gillard government to this billion-dollar project to address one of the worst bottlenecks in Brisbane's road network. Over the life of this project, 1,004 direct jobs have been created.

This project is coming to a close and that is a good outcome, because it will deliver an improvement to the road network. I trust that, by the end of the year—depending on the weather—that will happen. I thank the community for coping with the impact of this project. Although most of the new road network is in place, it is not operating to its full capacity. When new lanes open fully, that will alleviate congestion and also the congestion that people have been experiencing over the past few years owing to the roadworks. I am going to stay in contact and work with my local community to ensure that the Department of Transport and Main Roads and the Brisbane City Council address any further impacts that arise out of this project.

Speaking of consultation, I think it is really important that we consult with communities, stakeholders and the business community. That is why I was so surprised when I looked at the Leader of the Opposition's diary for the month of September and saw that 90 per cent of her meetings have been with her colleagues. That is a sign of someone who does not need to consult with the community but instead has to make sure she keeps the numbers as she is under threat from the member for Broadwater.