




Speech By  
**Jessica Pugh**

**MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY**

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**HEAVY VEHICLE NATIONAL LAW AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (4.19 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill. This bill will bring benefit to the heavy vehicle industry. When it comes to supporting this industry and creating jobs, this Palaszczuk Labor government has a great record. Indeed, over 216,000 jobs have been created across Queensland since this government came to office in 2015 and our government's investment in roads and transport infrastructure, which supports the heavy vehicle industry through improved freight efficiencies and improved heavy vehicle road safety outcomes, has also contributed to job creation. In this year's state budget we had a record roads and transport investment budget of \$23 million, which will support over 21,500 jobs right across Queensland over the next four years. Building better roads and building new roads not only creates jobs for Queenslanders but also means that truckies can get their goods to market more safely and more quickly.

In my electorate of Mount Ommaney, for example, our government is delivering the Sumners Road interchange upgrade over the Centenary Motorway, which will help the trucking industry. I was very disappointed that the minister did not mention it earlier, but I will. The Sumners Road interchange upgrade is located at the junction of Jamboree Heights, Sumner, Sinnamon Park and Darra. The Sumners Road interchange currently consists of a two-lane overpass bridge with roundabouts at each end. Locals know, myself included, that during peak-hour traffic, which extends quite past real peak-hour traffic, the overpass bridge, the roundabouts and the roads on either side are heavily congested. The opportunity for safe pedestrian and cyclist traffic is also limited due to the lack of active transport facilities and the existence of those roundabouts, which are very hard for cyclists and drivers to navigate.

During the 2017 election I was so proud to stand with the Premier and the minister to announce that a re-elected Palaszczuk government would fully upgrade the Sumners Road interchange. This interchange has subsequently undergone a redesign which means that the design at the time, which was four lanes, has now been upgraded. It is now a six-lane, two-bridge absolute masterpiece, if I say so myself. I can tell the House from my community consultation that my local area is absolutely thrilled about this upgrade getting underway, none more so than the local businesses. This particular road is a real conduit for a lot of local businesses. The communities of Darra and Sumner Park are incredibly busy and thriving industrial areas, so this overpass is used by a lot of trucks day in and day out. It is really important that this upgrade happens to keep it as safe as possible for those heavy vehicles.

With regard to the design of the interchange, it has signalised intersections; we are getting rid of those roundabouts that are unsafe. It has a new two-lane bridge and also a new four-lane bridge—we are getting rid of the existing bridge—and there are also provisions for completely separate pedestrian and active transport, as well as, and I know the minister is really excited about this as such a proud advocate for cycle and active travel, a grade separated cycle track that will be built up as an underpass below the western intersection and it will link up with the Centenary Bikeway. It is so wonderful to see so many residents of the Centenary getting off the roads and on to their bikes and into the city.

As I mentioned, it is an \$80 million project to complete. On-site activities are underway, so we have seen some fantastic progress. The lack of rain means that it is going ahead in leaps and bounds. The construction contract was awarded to BMD Constructions, which has done a lot of wonderful work in my area since the Centenary suburbs were first incepted about 50 years ago. Indeed, it is a local Brisbane contractor. Members will be pleased to know that that contract was awarded during my birthday week back in May. What a wonderful present that was for me.

**Ms Boyd:** Birthday week?

**Ms PUGH:** I celebrate for a month, member for Pine Rivers, but we will leave it at a week! This Palaszczuk government investment, awarded to this fantastic local Brisbane contractor, will sustain 105 jobs on that project over the life of the construction. Construction of this second bridge is expected to be completed in 2021, with the first bridge delivered next year, which will be fantastic. The Sumners Road interchange is just one part of the motorway and our government is focused on making sure that we continue investing in better roads to support local commuters but also, as I mentioned, the heavy vehicle industry that so relies on that overpass because of the business communities in Darra and Sumner Park that are absolutely growing in leaps and bounds.

The Centenary Motorway also supports Brisbane's western corridor. It is one of the largest growth areas of Queensland being fed by traffic from the Ipswich Motorway, which is currently undergoing that absolutely fantastic \$400 million upgrade, and the Legacy Way tunnel. Our government's planning study for the Centenary Motorway—and I am sure excited about this, as I know many of the members in the Ipswich region are—was completed in March 2019. The planning study allows for a staged delivery of upgrades from Sumners Road in Darra to Frederick Street in Toowong, so that is right to that roundabout where the road ends.

Preconstruction funding from the Centenary bridge upgrade at Jindalee was announced in late 2017 and the Palaszczuk government committed \$20 million to complete a business case and design for the new three-lane northbound bridge over the Brisbane River on the Centenary Motorway. Current investigations include an additional southbound lane to help increase capacity to three lanes which means that it will be safer to merge because, as I said, a lot of heavy vehicles use that day in and day out. As I have said before, this proposed new bridge will improve connectivity and travel choice between Brisbane's western suburbs, local destinations and the central business district. It is going to support the heavy vehicles that are already travelling on the Ipswich Motorway and give them another option.

This bill is going to help improve the national law to increase efficiency and road safety. The current powers and functions of the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator under the heavy vehicle national law do not provide specifically for the giving of advice, but on 1 October 2018 new primary duty obligations commenced for the parties in the chain of responsibility. These new obligations create a reasonable expectation for the industry that the NHVR and its officers will provide advice regarding those duties and they will provide guidance on the potential and practical measures that may be taken by duty holders to comply with those duties.

The NHVR's functions under the HVNL will be amended to expressly specify that the NHVR and its authorised officers can give advice, information and education to a person who has a duty or an obligation about complying with that duty or obligation. An amendment proposed in the bill will extend the current 4.3-metre height limit for specified semitrailers to a 4.6-metre height limit for any semitrailer combination that is coupled by fifth wheel couplings and is not a performance based standards scheme vehicle—

**An honourable member** interjected.

**Ms PUGH:**—has an air suspension system with effective dampers fitted—it is good to see the member for Chatsworth getting excited about trucks—has a deck height not higher than 1.2 metres for at least half of its deck length, and has a mass of no more than 90 per cent of the prescribed mass limit for the combination. The amendment also provides that a specified semitrailer is not a restricted access vehicle. The main benefit of this amendment is to allow specified semitrailers to operate at 4.6 metres high under the HVNL without the need for a notice or an individual limit. This amendment, members will be pleased to know, will reduce the administrative burden for industry, the regulator and road managers.

I am proud of this government's support for the heavy vehicle industry which helps support jobs throughout Queensland and improves efficiency and road safety. Not only are we supporting industry through improved infrastructure like the Sumners Road interchange upgrade, the Centenary bridge planning work and, of course, the Ipswich Motorway; the reforms contained in this bill will reduce red tape and make it easier for truckies to get the advice they need to operate safely. I commend the bill to the House.