




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

Record of Proceedings, 16 October 2019

ADJOURNMENT

Walter Taylor Bridge

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (7.27 pm): My constituents in Graceville, Sherwood, Chelmer and Tennyson continue to suffer in terms of one of the worst bottlenecks in Brisbane—that is, of course, the Walter Taylor Bridge. The Walter Taylor Bridge was built in 1936 when FDR was still President of the United States and Winston Churchill was four years off being Prime Minister of Britain. That is how long it has been since anything has occurred in this part of the city. We see am peak hours, pm peak hours and Saturday morning peak hours—the congestion gets worse and worse year in, year out, month in, month out, day in, day out. It is 100 per cent a Brisbane City Council matter and they continue to refuse to do anything about the traffic congestion there. We have had 16 years of LNP Lord Mayors—Campbell Newman, Graham Quirk and now Adrian Schinner—and yet we have the same inaction, the same ignoring of communities in my constituency for that period of time.

There is strong local support for action. What we need is a commitment to design a second bridge in the allocated corridor on the downstream side, on the eastern side; genuine community consultation with communities on both sides of the river to get the design right; and then we need tendering and construction. That will take a number of years. The congestion will get a lot worse in that time, but we need to get going right now. This is a great opportunity for the Brisbane City Council because at the moment it creates traffic. People go the long way around, all the way through Highgate Hill and Dutton Park, on the northside, to avoid this extraordinarily bad bottleneck. If we want to reduce congestion in this city we have to deal with this issue.

I know City Hall does not have a great record. Kingsford Smith Drive is a year over time and \$100 million over budget. King George Square was not a great outcome. Spending \$6.2 million out of the bushland levy on land at Mount Gravatt East that does not have a single tree on it is not a good record either. We have seen recent profligate spending of ratepayers' funds on taxis to Keith Urban and Cher concerts and we have seen \$100,000 unaccounted for that goes into the Lord Mayor's account.

All those things aside, this is a great opportunity for this Lord Mayor not to be shifty but to get out there and deal with a real issue in this city that is his responsibility and show he has a new way of going about things. My constituents want to see action in terms of traffic congestion in that south-west part of Brisbane. It is not just my constituents; it is no doubt constituents in other areas such as the seats of Mount Ommaney and further south. People in the seat of Maiwar north of the river want to see this dealt with as well because they cannot get south in the same way my constituents cannot get north and it is getting worse. I call on the Lord Mayor and the Brisbane City Council to start funding the design work needed to get a second bridge—Taylor II—across the river beside the Walter Taylor Bridge.