




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR ASPLEY

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MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Aspley Electorate, Infrastructure

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (2.41 pm): In June we announced that the Palaszczuk government has committed \$128 million to build a new rail overpass at Beams Road, boost the Carseldine park-and-ride and improve local road connections. In 2017 we said that we had a plan to fix Beams Road, and we are making it happen. Construction will start next year on this fantastic local project. This means hundreds of jobs created and hundreds of hours saved at the boom gates. I launched a community petition, secured funding for a feasibility study, launched the business case and locked in funding from all levels of government. I took up the fight to get this dangerous level crossing removed. I thank the many local residents who joined my community campaign to demand that the level crossing at Carseldine be removed and replaced with a new overpass. This new funding from the Palaszczuk government will mean that we can get this project underway now, with construction starting in 2021.

In addition to the rail overpass, we are delivering a commuter car park plan, including 170 extra car parks, and upgrades to the surrounding road network. In fact, construction is starting this month on the additional car parks. The member for Sandgate and I are very excited about that. We also have the diverging diamond interchange in Bald Hills, a \$30 million project jointly funded by the state and federal governments. This project went out to tender last month, and we are ready to go. We are getting on with it.

However, at a state and federal level all we see from the LNP is promise after promise with no plan to deliver. Like with their money for Linkfield Road, they make an announcement but do not actually put the funding in their budget. Today's *Courier-Mail* reports that, of 15 projects to be fast-tracked under an economic rescue package announced by the Prime Minister, none are wholly within Queensland whilst eight are in New South Wales. Only one project, inland rail, is partly in Queensland. I recall then prime minister Tony Abbott saying in 2013 that inland rail was being fast-tracked. Apparently it is not. We are getting on with delivering real projects right now, not in some fictional future.

The Beams Road project is part of Queensland's plan to unite and recover for Queensland jobs. It will deliver much needed construction jobs for locals as we begin to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic. Plenty of other great projects are happening across the north side as well. Today it was great to hear that three local schools—Geebung Special School, Aspley State School and Craigslea State School—will benefit from the Premier's announcement of school infrastructure enhancement projects. Aspley State School will get \$200,000 to refurbish block B and \$200,000 to create a safe and modern outdoor learning area. I know that the P&C, students and parents have been waiting some time for that. Craigslea State School will get a \$200,000 refurbishment to block D, and that includes new lights, fans, carpet and a repaint. Geebung Special School will get \$200,000 to refurbish its early childhood development precinct to create better learning spaces, storage and facilities. I am really pleased that these three great schools are able to get ahead. These projects are happening now, in this financial year—not at some made-up date in the future.

Of course, this is on top of our fantastic announcements at Aspley State High School. There will be a new multipurpose sports hall, a covered outdoor learning area and a new music centre—investments totalling over \$14 million. I was very pleased to turn the first sod on this work last month with Minister Grace. For years, Aspley State High School students have had no indoor space for sports or PE—if it rained it was all off—and they could not even fit all students in the same hall for assembly. We are fixing that.

Just down the road in Zillmere, the new north side indoor sports centre will be the new home of Northside Wizards Basketball. It also will be a hub for many other sports, with five courts and seating for over 300 spectators. It is under construction right now and will soon open. We also helped fund the relocation of Jabiru Community College right next door. It opened earlier this year and provides a flexible learning environment for students in years 10 to 12. Both of these facilities were in disused sheds that the former LNP government shut down. We are repurposing and re-using them and we are revitalising the entire suburb of Zillmere. This is in addition to our \$6.5 million sporting facilities in Carseldine, which are going gangbusters, just across the creek. We are delivering jobs and certainty in the midst of a shuddering global economy and a health pandemic. Whilst the Leader of the Opposition has been busy calling 64 times a day for our borders to reopen, we are delivering jobs for Queenslanders right now. You cannot trust the LNP to keep Queenslanders safe, and you cannot trust it with the economy.