




Speech By
Bart Mellish

MEMBER FOR ASPLEY

Record of Proceedings, 10 September 2020

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Aspley Electorate

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (2.15 pm): I would briefly like to echo the Premier's sentiments about three great ministers from our side who have made fantastic contributions. Two weeks ago tomorrow my colleague the member for Sandgate and I turned the sod on the additional 170 extra car parks at Carseldine train station. This is a great program in and of itself but, importantly, it is the first stage of the Beams Road rail overpass project. With the help of locals, I launched a community petition to build support for the project, I secured funding for a feasibility study, I launched the business case and I locked in funding from all levels of government. I took up the fight to get this dangerous level crossing removed. This is a project that the LNP ignored for years but we are delivering. They ignored overwhelming community sentiment and they ignored independent economic analysis.

In 2012 Deloitte undertook a cost-benefit analysis for the Newman government. The secret report, which was never released publicly, lists an overpass at Beams Road as having the highest benefit cost ratio of 21 surveyed level crossing removals in South-East Queensland, yet the Newman government sat on the report and the LNP ignored the project. When I became the candidate for Aspley in 2017, I set about changing that. I secured an election commitment for a \$400,000 feasibility study—a commitment I note the LNP did not match.

Following the feasibility study, all available feedback channels showed that most people just wanted the crossing fixed. In the 2019 budget, I secured \$5 million for the business case and pre-construction works. This then culminated in June this year when the Treasurer joined the member for Sandgate and me to announce enough funding to get this project built. There was \$128 million which, when combined with council and federal government contributions, is enough to get this project done. Work will start in 2021.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads are consulting further with locals on the design of the project. I encourage locals to visit the website, give them a call or drop into one of four public consultation sessions that they are hosting. This is in contrast to the LNP, which did not release the secret report on Beams Road and did not commit any funding to this important project. I encourage the community to have their say on the preferred design. Even now, the opposition is playing catch-up.

As mentioned before, in addition to the rail overpass, we are delivering a commuter car park plan which includes 170 additional car parks at the Carseldine rail station and upgrades to the surrounding road network. I will continue to work hard to deliver the Beams Road level crossing upgrade because the area cannot afford to have this project put at risk by a future LNP government. They have a history of cutting funding to road projects, sacking workers and selling off Queensland's assets. This 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. Hundreds of people will be employed on this project, putting food on the table for northside families. This is on top of existing great local wins we have got, such as the Northside Indoor Sports Centre, which will soon be open, and

the Jabiru Community College, which is right next door and is actually in the old home of the SDS which the LNP shut down and thereby sacked about 50 workers on the north side. We are delivering jobs and we are delivering certainty.

(Time expired)