




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY

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ADJOURNMENT

Mount Ommaney Electorate, Infrastructure

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (10.38 pm): It is 2020 and when it comes to infrastructure in the Mount Ommaney electorate we certainly have 2020 vision. In fact, so much has happened this year in infrastructure I barely know where to start—wait, yes, I do! It is the long-awaited Sumners Road overpass. A few months ago now the girders were laid on the first new bridge for the Sumners Road overpass. The existing bridge carries over 35,000 vehicles every single day. That is growing at a rate of about 10 per cent a year and it services the business hubs of Darra and Sumner Park as well as the Centenary Motorway. These business hubs are thriving and, in fact, the Spacer Company, based in Sumner Park, is already a government supplier to TMR projects just like this one.

The Sumners Road overpass has been on the cards for 10 long years. Before the 2017 commitment from the Palaszczuk government, Mount Ommaney locals were getting really frustrated that there was no progress on that long-awaited piece of infrastructure. Before I was elected, groups such as the Jamboree Residents Association, led by Wayne Williams, lobbied me tirelessly to get the work committed to and started, so I am forever grateful to the Premier that she recognised the importance of this infrastructure to my community and stumped up the \$80 million to build the bridge. Let us be clear: before that no-one had put the money on the table. It had been promised by the LNP in 2012, 2015 and again in 2017, but no money was put on the table to build it. The Premier put a stop to that. She funded the project in full and now it is on its way. In fact, the first bridge is full steam ahead under COVID-19 and will be open to traffic in the coming months.

Also on its way is the Ipswich Motorway \$400 million upgrade between Rocklea and Oxley. Recently on that stretch the higher bridge was opened to traffic, which is wonderful news for Oxley and Ipswich locals. Prior to the opening of the bridge earlier this year, in wet weather the road was prone to flooding, which left motorists stranded in the rain. We know that rainy roads are chaotic enough without being completely unusable because of rain. I know that commuters from Oxley, Darra and Corinda in particular will benefit from the improved route. The new higher path will get rid of that problem. It will increase the capacity for the trucks and vehicles that use that busy thoroughfare every day.

Finally I thank the gang at Urban Utilities and TMR for their quick work in fixing a significant hole in the motorway a few months ago. For a period the hole closed the motorway northbound, which really hammered home the vital importance of that stretch of motorway for the whole south-west corridor. With 90,000 vehicles using that busy stretch of road every day, we know that the Centenary Highway needs an upgrade. We have \$20 million on the table for planning. The Centenary Motorway services a very large population base right throughout Ipswich, Springfield and beyond. As I said, the business case is underway. Soon the initial designs should be available to share with the community.