




Speech By
Jessica Pugh

MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Sumners Road Overpass

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (2.47 pm): It was nine short months ago that I wrote to the Minister for Main Roads to thank him for attending the sod turning of the first bridge of the Sumners Road overpass, and last Friday I was able to drive over it. Hats off to the contractors BMD and TMR for delivering the first bridge in just nine months. I also think we need to give a little credit to the weather fairy because we have been blessed with truly spectacular weather. To say my community is excited is an understatement because this project has been 10 long years in the design and making process.

First promised and funded by Julie Attwood, it was cut from the budget after Campbell Newman was elected in 2012. As the then candidate for Mount Ommaney, I lobbied the Premier for funds to upgrade the road and she delivered in 2017, promising the project would be delivered by a re-elected Palaszczuk government—but not just any bridge. The design was close to 10 years old by then and subsequent traffic growth had seen 10 per cent increases year on year on this section of road due to the thriving business hubs in Darra and Sumner Park. TMR turbocharged the design and after the 2017 election it presented the Mount Ommaney community with an even bigger and better bridge plan: six lanes, a fantastic bike path which has been warmly welcomed and seamless access to local businesses on the bridge.

I also thank the TMR team for listening to my feedback from the local businesses on the bridge who were asking for improved access. We were able to change the design to safely include additional access points, which is such a win for these fantastic businesses. The bridge is officially halfway done. Still to come is a new four-lane bridge to replace the two-lane bridge and the finishing of the bike path.

While I am on my feet, I want to place on record the view of our community about the idea of a car bridge crossing for Riverhills and Bellbowrie. Before this year's council election Lord Mayor Schrinner proposed five green bridges, one of which was slated to connect Wacol and Bellbowrie. I know that last year's consultation for a planned green bridge between Wacol and Bellbowrie was widely rejected by about 80 per cent of Bellbowrie locals. They have suggested a road bridge to Riverhills as an alternative.

I have doorknocked pretty much every street in Riverhills both before and after being elected. The clear consensus is that we do not need extra traffic coming through Riverhills and funnelling traffic onto our already busy roads. We are more than happy to facilitate access to our local train stations. However, our community is staunchly opposed to road access. One road bridge for Sumners Road is enough. We do not need another one.

I encourage locals to make a submission about the proposal and I look forward to working with Lord Mayor Schrinner and our local councillors to ensure a great outcome for our community.