



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Bailey**


**MEMBER FOR MILLER**

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## **ADJOURNMENT**

### **Walter Taylor Bridge**

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (7.22 pm): Earlier this week I dropped down to inspect the one-lane traffic bottleneck across the old Walter Taylor Bridge in Chelmer. The traffic there has well and truly returned in full force despite traffic numbers there not yet being back to the pre-COVID volumes.

Residents of my electorate raise with me time and time again the need for action here. The Walter Taylor Bridge was built in 1936 for 85,000 pounds at a time when Joseph Lyons was the prime minister and William Forgan Smith was the premier of Queensland—84 years ago. We still have only one lane of traffic across the Brisbane River between inner-city Brisbane and the Centenary Bridge.

It is well overdue for the Brisbane City Council to commence design work on a second bridge linking Indooroopilly with Chelmer along the allocated corridor that exists, either by a business case or by a commissioned design consultancy. The bridge frankly does not cut it in this day and age—in 2020. Chelmer, Graceville and Sherwood—suburbs that were drawn into my electorate three years ago—have sadly seen no progress to date on this made by the Brisbane City Council. It really is a case of taking those suburbs for granted. Their simple desire is to get across the river to access services, schools, universities and things that everybody else takes for granted.

We know that there is already a corridor allocated on the downstream side and that every month we will see a worsening of traffic. Even if a commitment were made today, it would be years of work before we saw a second bridge built. There would need to design work, a business case, detailed design and community consultation, all before a tender could be let. There is no reason the Brisbane City Council could not start initial technical and planning work to design crossing options as part of a COVID response to create work and then engage in meaningful consultation with the local community. I have written to the Lord Mayor requesting that the council consider this project once again and come out and see the gridlock during morning peak hour. It is not just during peak hour that there is gridlock, it is also on weekends, particularly Saturdays—sport days.

In the last four or five months, I think it is fair to say that the Lord Mayor and the Brisbane City Council and the state government have been working well together on the CBD cycle grid and as part of the Active Transport Advisory Committee that has been formed to work on active transport and advancing the Metro project. It is in that spirit of cooperation that I have written to the Lord Mayor to make that request for that reconsideration and to come out and have a look at the situation.

The Palaszczuk government is doing the heavy lifting in the south-west with the six-laning of the Ipswich Motorway and the Sumners Road interchange on the Centenary Highway. The business case is complete on the Centenary Bridge. We are investing record amounts into infrastructure and a billion dollars worth of stimulus. This project in Brisbane's south-west needs to be done. I think the council needs to step up to the plate.