



Speech By Corrine McMillan

MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 10 March 2021

ADJOURNMENT

Cycling Infrastructure; Rochedale Road-Priestdale Road Intersection Upgrade

Ms McMilLAN (Mansfield—ALP) (7.17 pm): At the 2020 local government elections, the residents of Rochedale and Mackenzie were promised a bikeway connecting their suburbs to the Eight Mile Plains park-and-ride busway, the veloway to the city, and to Wishart and Upper Mount Gravatt. The current lack of local infrastructure poses a high risk to the safety of bike users in our area. Cyclists are required to navigate grass or dirt footpaths; busy, narrow and highly congested council roads; unsealed paths; and heavy vehicles on the dangerous Brisbane urban corridor.

During the COVID-19 pandemic we have seen the number of cyclists increase across Brisbane. Rochedale and Mackenzie are emerging and fast-growing communities with many individuals, families and seniors who are active bicycle commuters. We know that a high volume of cyclists using the same roads as vehicles increases the potential for accidents. Combined with the lack of infrastructure, many local bike users feel unprotected and unsafe travelling within the area. I encourage residents to continue signing my petition to the BCC to fund the cycling and pedestrian infrastructure that was promised to our community.

For many years, the member for Springwood and I have been fighting for another issue important to Rochedale residents—an upgrade to the Rochedale Road and Priestdale Road intersection. We heard our community's call to action and we began to campaign to push the local and federal governments to take urgent action on this roundabout. Like the bikeway, this project will be immensely beneficial for locals, especially our school students who walk across the intersection every day in unsafe conditions.

I encourage our community to attend a community information session this Saturday to be held at the Rochedale fruit markets beginning at 9 am. There will be an opportunity to meet the project team and ask questions around the proposed designs. With every project it is important that the community are consulted and informed at every stage of development. I am committed to continuing this consultation as I urge the Brisbane City Council to start construction of both the Rochedale bikeway and the signalled intersection.

As the state member for Mansfield and a resident of Rochedale, I have launched a petition to urge the Brisbane City Council and MacGregor ward councillor, Steven Huang, to immediately commence community consultation on this bikeway and allocate the financial resources required. Over 620 people have already signed this petition. The Brisbane City Council should be encouraging healthy, sustainable and safe travel by building the bikeway they promised to my community more than 12 months ago.