



Speech By  
**Jessica Pugh**

**MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY**

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## **APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) (2020-2021) BILL**

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#### **Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)**

#### **Appropriation (2020-2021) Bill**

#### **Transport and Resources Committee, Report**

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (6.03 pm): I am excited to be on the Transport and Resources Committee because it means I get to spend the next four years diving into the nitty-gritty of the many fantastic road and rail projects right around Queensland. We can start right in the heart of Mount Ommaney with the Sumners Road overpass, which is rapidly nearing completion many months ahead of schedule. As I drove across it earlier this year, it was amazing to think that this project had been almost fully completed during my first term, and this included a substantial redesign of the initial project to upgrade the capacity of the bridge from two lanes to a total of six lanes. That is an \$80 million project and a lot of parts and equipment are being procured locally.

The Sumners Road overpass runs over the Centenary Motorway. Last year federal member Milton Dick and I were delighted to announce that the state and federal government would be fifty-fifty co-funding this very important project. The design and business case of this project was already funded by the state government. However, the next stage will be equally funded by the state and federal government, with construction due to start in 2022. That is a \$112 million commitment from both of those levels of government.

Just to the south, the Rocklea to Oxley section of the Ipswich Motorway was also all but completed as at Christmas, with Minister Bailey, the Minister for Main Roads, recently on site for the final landscaping and planting being carried out by the team. That is a \$400 million project. Again, funding is fifty-fifty from the state and federal governments. That means hundreds of local jobs. As I have mentioned before, Transport and Main Roads uses over 90 per cent Queensland materials sourced from local suppliers like Wagners Concrete at Wacol. That creates a second layer of jobs in the procurement of equipment and materials to construct these world-class projects, and it is a real credit to the department and to the minister.

The Queensland government is one of the largest procurement agencies in our state, and we know that where we spend our money matters because it helps to drive jobs. Road projects like this right across Queensland are driving jobs and investment and, in the face of COVID, these jobs have never been more important. Good, secure jobs—like the 100 or so construction jobs on the Sumners Road overpass or the more than 100 construction jobs on I think it is called Upper Ross Drive, also known as Riverway Drive!—are at the heart of everything this government does.

In addition to the many road projects being undertaken, we also have railway upgrades right around the south-east corner designed to get cars off the road such as the park-and-ride upgrades happening at Springfield and Darra in my electorate and the full disability upgrades happening at stations like Dakabin in my good friend the member for Kurwongbah's electorate. It is a strong jobs agenda driven by strong advocacy from local members.

The Queensland government is also investing \$145 million to establish three renewable energy zones right across Queensland. This member of the committee is very excited about that. In these areas we will undertake strategic network investments; we will streamline the development of new renewable energy projects; and we will work to match industrial energy demand with our cheap, clean renewable energy that will operate 24 hours a day. Spanning from Far North Queensland to the Darling Downs west of Brisbane, this investment will grow Queensland's position as an investment destination for renewable energy and create more jobs as part of our COVID-19 road to recovery blueprint.

Strengthening Queensland's industries is a critical part of our economic recovery. Staged and coordinated clean renewable energy infrastructure investments will attract new projects to these zones. More renewable energy is expected to place downward pressure on prices, boosting local industries and bringing down prices for consumers. I am really excited about it and I know that the people of Mount Ommaney are too.

I will finish by thanking the many witnesses who appeared, also our secretariat and our impromptu chair, the member for Bancroft, Chris Whiting, who stepped in at the last minute for the member for Kurwongbah. The member for Bancroft was actually meant to be my replacement if I went into labour, so he was there ready and waiting and stepped into the breach at the last minute. It is really good to have the member for Kurwongbah back, and I look forward to working together as a committee over the next four years.