




Speech By
Jessica Pugh

MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY

Record of Proceedings, 12 May 2021

MOTION

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (5.49 pm): It might be 2021, but when it comes to infrastructure in the Mount Ommaney electorate our government has perfect 20/20 vision. In fact, so much has already happened this term in local infrastructure, I barely know where to start. Wait, yes I do! It is the long-awaited Len Waters Sumners Road overpass, an \$80 million project delivered by the Palaszczuk government. The Sumners Road overpass had been on the cards for 10 years. Before the 2017 commitment from the Palaszczuk government, Mount Ommaney locals were getting really frustrated there had been no progress on this long-awaited bridge. Let us be really clear: before the Palaszczuk government, no-one had put money on the table. It had been promised by the LNP in the 2012, 2015 and 2017 elections, but no money was ever put on the table to build it. The Premier put a stop to that. She funded the project in full, and I was proud as punch to stand with her and Minister Bailey at the opening last month.

It was standing room only at the opening, because my community had waited so long to have this project completed after it was cut by the Newman government. The RSL was there, along with the Jamboree Residents Association and, of course, the family of Len Waters, the local Indigenous war hero after whom the bridge is named. The bridge, once two lanes, is now a majestic six lanes and traffic flows freely all day long. It has had the mother of all glow-ups and it looks great.

But wait, there is more! Not two weeks after the opening of the Sumners Road overpass, the Premier was back again to open the Oxley-Rocklea stretch of the Ipswich Motorway. This \$400 million project flood-proofed a key stretch of road, adding additional lanes and keeping traffic going during peak hours. It was only a few weeks ago that the Premier, the member for Toohey, the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, as well as Milton Dick, the federal member for Oxley, opened that project for the benefit of Ipswich and the western suburbs. I have called it the 'Tradie Express'. It will keep Queenslanders moving. It is a 50-50 project with the feds. We need to see more of these projects for Queensland.

Prior to the opening earlier this year, the road was prone to flooding in wet weather events like the one we have seen today, and people were left stranded and unable to get home due to the rain. We know that in rain and storms roads are chaotic and scary enough without being completely unusable, so I know that commuters in my electorate and further down in Ipswich will really benefit from this improved path.

We are not stopping there. I have also secured \$112 million from the state government to work with the federal government to upgrade the Jindalee Bridge of the Centenary Motorway. Over 90,000 vehicles a day use this busy stretch of road, and the south-west locals know that the Centenary needs an upgrade. We call it 'Centenary Car Park'. It is not just a key route into the city but also an opening to the Airportlink and the quick route to the north side, the airport and the Sunshine Coast. I have often

been known to say that it might be called the Centenary Motorway but if we did put a boom gate at the end of the Centenary suburbs on the motorway we would not have any traffic issues. The Centenary Motorway services a very large population base right through Ipswich, Springfield and beyond.

I thank my colleagues—the members for Jordan, Ipswich, Ipswich West and Bundamba, along with the Premier—for their strong support of this project. They backed the call to get this done and I am proud to say that construction starts next year. I would not trade my colleagues for anything, member for Gregory.

As I said, this is a state-federal partnership. What is interesting is that I do not have two federal LNP members; I have two Labor federal members in Graham Perrett and Milton Dick. These two hardworking federal members fight every day for their electorates, even in opposition, and that is why we have been able to secure the funds for these vital projects. It is a shame that not every electorate in Queensland has a Graham or a Milton fighting for them, because we need more of them.

I finish by expressing my disappointment about the lack of funds in the federal budget for the Sunshine Coast Stadium in Bokarina. A few weeks ago, my baby Elyse and I were so fortunate to head up for the launch of the Women's State of Origin where we met the captain of the women's Queensland team, Ali Briginshaw. The stadium is quickly becoming known as the spiritual home of women's Origin in Queensland. As I understand it, the game sold out last time. I reckon it will sell out again. I am doing my part: I have my tickets and I am taking my whole family, my in-laws and my dad. It will be an epic game. Get your tickets! It is going to be great.

The member for Caloundra has secured \$20 million in committed funding from the Palaszczuk government for the stadium, but we need the federal government to come to the table and stump up. The federal government has short-changed Queensland on this in this budget. They are taking us for granted. We need to see better.