



Speech By  
**Jessica Pugh**


**MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY**

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**MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Mount Ommaney Electorate, Infrastructure**

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (2.31 pm): Locals were incredibly excited last year when Milton Dick and I announced the upgrade of the Centenary Motorway at the Jindalee bridge for two reasons. Firstly, this project means hundreds of jobs working on the construction of the bridge over the four years of works required. Secondly, it will get traffic moving again on this bridge, which has been essentially untouched since it was constructed about 50 years ago. It requires a \$112 million investment from the Palaszczuk government, and that is matched by the federal government. It is a much needed project for the south-west corridor, which is growing at a rate of knots.

Right now the commute into the city is up to an hour for people living in my electorate and it does seem to be getting worse every single day. This means people are struggling to get to work on time and then home again at the end of the day to their families and loved ones. That is hundreds upon thousands of hours of work and play time that will be saved by this upgrade. We are an area with many young families, including my own. I cannot count the number of parents who have contacted my office because it is a mad rush to pick up their kids before the 6 pm after-school or early education facilities close.

When I told my community last year that we would be upgrading the bridge, they were thrilled. However, there were a number of young people who had some concerns. Just next to the bridge is a very popular skate park at Jindalee. It is right next to the motorway. You can see when you drive along just how popular it is. When I drove by last weekend there would have easily been 50 kids at the park. During the election last year many young people heading into the polling booth took the time to ask me about that skate park. They were adamant that we needed to protect it from resumption.

I took that case to the minister and said, 'We have to retain this facility in the community.' It is so popular and we need these facilities for our young people. With the introduction of skateboarding as an Olympic sport, we could well have some Olympians in training for 2032 right in the heart of Jindalee. The minister has always given our community a good hearing, whether it is about the Len Waters overpass, the Ipswich Motorway upgrade or the Darra park-and-ride, and this time was no different. The minister agreed that we needed to keep this vital piece of community infrastructure and has confirmed that the design will not require the resumption of the skate park.

Thanks very much to the team in the minister's office and to TMR for their fantastic work in ensuring that we could keep the skate park while upgrading the bridge. Places for young people to gather are incredibly important. The department fully recognised the importance of this skate park to the young people in my community. I thank the young people in my community who took the time to raise this issue with me. There were a lot of them. I hope this shows young people in all of our communities that their voice absolutely makes a difference. By speaking with your local member you have made a difference and you have played a part in saving this skate park for our community. Well done!

Milton Dick and I want to hear more from the community about their thoughts on the Centenary Motorway upgrade. We have community consultation starting soon with the department. Milton and I will also be doing additional mobile offices to talk to the community, show them the designs and ask for their feedback. Our community has waited 50 years since this bridge was constructed for this upgrade, so we want to get this project right. Community feedback was vital in shaping the final product of the Len Waters Sumners Road overpass. We need to hear from the members of the Mount Ommaney community so that this bridge serves us for a generation to come.

Finally, I will update the House on the other infrastructure achievements in my electorate over the last few months. A few months ago the Premier and I opened the Len Waters overpass, the Sumners Road overpass—an \$80 million state funded project which has completely transformed the morning commute for Darra and Centenary residents. Now that it has been open for a month, I am very happy to say that, while previously the Sumners Road overpass was so congested that it could take up to 20 minutes to cross the Centenary suburbs into Darra, that is no more thanks to the 100-plus workers on this fantastic project. Traffic is now moving through really well. It takes about five minutes, and that is critical to the business parks in Sumner and Darra.

It is also critical to the commuters who use the Darra train station and its park-and-ride, which is currently being extensively upgraded to allow for over 180 new car parks, bringing the total new number of car parks for commuters to more than 400. It is just 22 minutes into the city from Darra on an express service. It is a wonderful option for city workers. Thanks to the Sumners Road upgrade, it is now less than 10 minutes drive for Centenary residents.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I would love to tell you a bit about the newly opened Ipswich Motorway, but what can I do—I only have five minutes! Let me just say that it is an exciting time to live in Mount Ommaney.