



Speech By
Hon. Leanne Linard

MEMBER FOR NUDGEES

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT

Banyo Rail Crossing

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (2.33 pm): I rise to speak about a long-term issue of concern in my community—the Banyo crossing. As locals know, traffic congestion at the Banyo road and rail crossing has been a problem for many years and is getting worse as more and more developments are approved in our local area. The intersection is confusing for motorists regarding who has right of way and has long been the subject of community calls to improve safety and signage at the intersection.

As with most level crossings, the state is responsible for the trains that run through the level crossing and the council has responsibility for the roads around the station, so two levels of government are involved in the issue and two levels of government are required for any improvements. Last year I announced—thanks to the transport and main roads minister, Mark Bailey, and thanks to our government—that the state would fund a joint study presenting options for improving traffic flows and safety around the level crossing, contingent on matched funds from Brisbane City Council. The study we are proposing would look not just at the actual crossing but at the precinct around Banyo station. It would present options for improving access, safety and traffic movements around the level crossing and surrounding roads, and it would also consider upgrades to make the station more accessible and more pedestrian and bike friendly for our growing community. All of these elements interact to make the crossing challenging. All must be looked at to improve it.

That study could start this year. With the support of the Brisbane City Council, it could have started last year, but there is the issue. There is the rub. The Brisbane City Council continue to refuse to support a joint approach. As a long-term resident of the Banyo and Nudgee community, I am keenly aware of the long history regarding community advocacy for improvements to the crossing. In 2004 the then Brisbane City Council lord mayor, Campbell Newman, committed to fix the intersection. In 2007 the Brisbane City Council proposed construction of an overpass, similar to the one located at Robinson Road, Geebung, and forwarded advance notice of potential resumptions to residents in St Vincents Road. The proposal was overwhelmingly rejected by locals as it would require the resumption of nearby homes, destroy the shopping village and lead to an increase in the number of trucks travelling through our suburb.

I do not expect any fix to be easy. We know an overpass is not suited to our village, but it does not mean the community should not be consulted on practical safety improvements at the crossing. I want to see everyone working together to find a solution that locals are comfortable with—a solution that improves safety at the crossing and gets hardworking locals home to their families faster. Since being elected in 2015, I have advocated for a joint approach between the state government and Brisbane City Council to address this community concern. As I have said, so far the council has refused to support a joint approach. It is time to take the politics out of this and it is time for both levels of government to work together in the interests of our community. It is what they expect and it is what they deserve.