




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

Record of Proceedings, 25 October 2022

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Gateway Motorway and Bruce Highway, Upgrade

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.57 am): Over the past week we have invited community feedback on the \$2.1 billion Gateway Motorway and Bruce Highway upgrade. Part of this process, based on department advice, includes notifying potentially affected property owners. My heart goes out to those people. It is always very difficult to be notified that your property may be required for a road upgrade.

We know that Brisbane's and Moreton Bay's northern suburbs are undergoing rapid growth, and with this rapid growth comes pressure on our transport infrastructure. That is why we are looking to increase capacity on the Gateway Motorway and Bruce Highway, to support this growth and unlock major housing developments in the area—like Caboolture West, which is predicted to be home to 70,000 residents in the future.

Eighty per cent of funding for part of this project was first announced by the former Morrison LNP government in 2018, with local MPs Luke Howarth and Peter Dutton publicly championing this upgrade—then and often since.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members!

Mr BAILEY: Let me reiterate—

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The Leader of the Opposition will cease his interjections. I had just called the House to order.

Mr BAILEY: Eighty per cent of this funding for the project was first announced by the former Morrison LNP government in 2018, with local MPs Luke Howarth and Peter Dutton publicly championing this upgrade—then and often since. Both Howarth and Dutton—

Mr Perrett interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The member for Gympie will put his interjections through the chair.

Mr BAILEY: Both Luke Howarth and Peter Dutton have strongly advocated for the north-facing on and off ramps at Griffin and Murrumba Downs, and that is a matter of public record. In April 2018 federal opposition leader Peter Dutton said—

Today the Coalition Government announced it will provide 80% of the funding for new Bruce Highway on-off ramps at Dohles Rocks Road. It is great news for our community ...

Those were Peter Dutton's words. To quote Luke Howarth, the federal member for Petrie—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BAILEY: Mr Speaker, they run interference on this ministerial statement. I am merely stating the facts. To quote Luke Howarth, the federal member for Petrie—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Nanango is warned under the standing orders.

Mr BAILEY: Luke Howarth, the federal member for Petrie, said in September 2018—

I was just talking to Jules ... she was absolutely supportive of it as are the people of Griffin. They've never been clearer. They want it built now. And as your Federal MP, I'm going to keep fighting for it.

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Chatsworth!

Mr BAILEY: These are the words of Luke Howarth, and let me repeat them because—

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Everton!

Mr BAILEY: The pathetic attempt to drown me out by the opposition is ridiculous. Let me quote Luke Howarth again.

... she was absolutely supportive of it as are the people of Griffin. They've never been clearer. They want it built now. And as your Federal MP, I'm going to keep fighting for it.

Mr O'Connor: That was four years ago!

Mr BAILEY: Mr Speaker, the interjections are telling. These are the facts of the matter: they took this to the 2019 federal election. They were re-elected with a mandate to deliver the on and off ramps at Griffin, so in 2020 the state government started early planning for it. It was not just back in 2018 that these two federal MPs championed this project. Just last week the federal member for Petrie, Luke Howarth, was smiling via emojis on his Facebook page, celebrating the next phase of the Griffin on and off ramps and claiming credit for it.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Apologies, Minister. Members to my left, I have tried to give as much guidance as possible. There is a running commentary and it needs to cease. Members will be warned without any additional advice.

Mr BAILEY: The House will understand my surprise when days later Luke Howarth came out publicly against the next phase of the project which is in community consultation, consulting with local residents who may be impacted by the Griffin on and off ramps which he and Peter Dutton funded, designed and demanded in 2018. It was some of the lowest behaviour I have witnessed during my time in office towards people who are in a very vulnerable state.

It is a very unfortunate situation when federal LNP MPs politicise community consultation which they themselves were responsible for. Unlike the federal LNP, we are committed to a genuine community consultation process. We will continue to work with the community on this issue. At this early stage it is not clear which properties will be required, but we have done the right thing and notified all potentially impacted property owners based on the advice of the Department of Transport and Main Roads. Once further work is done we will have a clearer indication of the property requirements of this project. This is a normal part of the process. We will continue to work with those property owners through this difficult process.