



Speech By  
**Brittany Lauga**


**MEMBER FOR KEPPEL**

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Record of Proceedings, 11 May 2023

## **PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

### **Rockhampton-Yeppoon Road, Upgrade**

 **Ms LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (2.51 pm): I am incredibly pleased that the contract for the \$80 million Rockhampton-Yeppoon Road upgrade has now been awarded to Queensland company Civil Mining and Construction. The LNP and One Nation, though, need to stop trying to derail the \$80 million Rockhampton-Yeppoon Road upgrade and get behind the 11½ thousand drivers who use this road every day. The LNP shadow minister for local government, Ann Leahy, and One Nation's Stephen Andrew are stalling the delivery of this project because they do not agree with the engineer's designs for the Artillery Road-Dairy Inn Road intersection. The Palaszczuk government is delivering its seventh record transport and roads infrastructure program in a row and all the member for Warrego and the member for Mirani can do is what they always do—whinge and try to stop progress.

The overwhelming majority of people in Keppel are very happy with TMR's plan for the road and the benefits they will enjoy when it is all done. In fact, the majority of people say to me, 'Why hasn't it started yet?' I have to tell them, 'The LNP and One Nation are trying to stop this and are trying to halt it.' I am calling on the LNP and One Nation to get out of the way of this critical road upgrade and to stop criticising and hampering the delivery of this \$80 million upgrade—an upgrade which has been assessed and endorsed by RACQ engineers. The LNP and One Nation want to put traffic lights or a roundabout at this intersection which will only impact the travel time between Yeppoon and Rocky. Not only is the LNP trying to put a halt to this important road upgrade; the Leader of the Opposition went so far as to say—and I heard the shadow minister for transport and main roads say it just then—that I was making up stories.

**Mrs Frecklington:** Well, table your evidence.

**Ms LAUGA:** I am very happy to table the evidence, which I have right here. I have the letter which the shadow minister for local government has written to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads calling on the design to be changed and reconsidered which would ultimately halt the project.

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 20 June 2022, from the member for Warrego, Ms Ann Leahy MP, to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Hon. Mark Bailey, in relation to upgrades to the Rockhampton Yeppoon Road [631](#).

The Leader of the Opposition's office told Seven News in Central Queensland that I was making up stories for Facebook and that he had no idea about his very own shadow minister's letter against the project. Clearly the Leader of the Opposition has no influence or control over his shadow cabinet. He has shadow ministers writing letters outside of their own portfolio area which the Leader of the Opposition does not even know about. Clearly the shadow minister does not know about them either and clearly the member for Nanango does not know about them either. Maybe they need to communicate internally a bit better.

I am asking for an apology from the Leader of the Opposition because clearly he did not have the whole story from the shadow ministers in his own team. I am proud that the contract for this project has been awarded this week and I look forward to the jobs flowing from it and traffic flowing efficiently as well.