



Speech By  
**Dr Christian Rowan**


**MEMBER FOR MOGGILL**

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Record of Proceedings, 20 April 2023

**TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**Report, Motion to Take Note**

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (3.13 pm): On 29 November 2021 the Transport and Resources Committee resolved to conduct a public works inquiry into the Sumners Road Interchange Upgrade project, with terms of reference set out in accordance with section 94 of the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001. As outlined by the committee, the project involved the construction of a new two-lane eastbound bridge, a new four-lane westbound bridge with provisions for pedestrians and active transport users to replace the existing westbound bridge, a separated cycle track as an underpass below the western intersection and new signalised intersections to replace two existing roundabouts.

While on the subject of active transport and cycle infrastructure, I take this opportunity to acknowledge the Brisbane West Bicycle User Group and its advocacy not only in relation to this project but also for other vital cyclist safety infrastructure requirements across the western suburbs of Brisbane, including the electorate of Moggill. I also thank and commend the Brisbane West Bicycle User Group for its dedicated and comprehensive submission to the Transport and Resources Committee for the committee's consideration and full deliberation throughout this inquiry.

In returning to this report, I note that the stated purpose of the work undertaken through this upgrade project included the objectives of reducing congestion at the Sumners Road Interchange and the adjacent Centenary Motorway, enhancing connections to cross network links, improving road-user safety on the interchange as well as the adjacent Centenary Motorway and, finally, improving accessibility to nearby public transport infrastructure and stations. These are very important objectives. The objectives of reducing congestion on main and connecting arterials, improving road safety, enhancing coordinating network and transport links and improving access to public transport infrastructure could equally be applied to the many various and important transport, cycle, pedestrian and active transport needs of local residents in the electorate of Moggill.

The report tabled by the Transport and Resources Committee outlines in clear terms the need for improved transport infrastructure for the western suburbs of Brisbane, particularly given the significant utilisation and patronage of the Centenary Motorway each and every day. The Centenary Motorway and Western Freeway form a significant transport corridor with direct connections into the electorate of Moggill and with significant use by local residents.

I note that the committee report specifically referenced a joint media statement issued in July 2018 by the Premier and the Minister for Transport and Main Roads titled, 'Palaszczuk Government fast-tracks design for a second Centenary Bridge'. The media release states—

Minister for Transport and Main Roads Mark Bailey said ... the time was right to put the pedal to the metal on the proposed duplication of the Centenary Bridge which carried more than 92,000 cars a day.

That was five years ago. Today the Palaszczuk state Labor government is proudly celebrating its broken promise to local residents, with shovels finally hitting the ground on the Centenary Bridge duplication. Whilst it is important that the project has commenced, it is still two years later than what western suburbs residents were promised. Five years later means a two-year delay and there has been a \$50 million budget blowout. If that is the Labor government's idea of putting the pedal to the metal then that is extraordinary.

The western suburbs of Brisbane need a full integrated transport plan with funded solutions to bust traffic congestion, enhance public and active transport, and improve pedestrian and cyclist safety. Still there is no transparency on how this government will improve safety on Moggill Road, particularly the section between the Kenmore roundabout and Kilkivan Avenue. There are serious safety concerns for students in relation to that section of road. Many issues are still to be resolved, particularly across the western suburbs of Brisbane, let alone what is happening in relation to the Mount Crosby Road and Warrego Highway interchange project.

Whilst the committee found that the Sumners Road Interchange Upgrade project is suitable for its purpose, the work is necessary and advisable, and it is reasonable value for money, certainly far more work needs to be progressed by the state Labor government when it comes to planning and delivering transport and main roads projects for the western suburbs of Brisbane, not only to reduce traffic congestion but also to improve pedestrian and cyclist safety and enhance public transport availability and connectivity. I take this opportunity to say to the Labor Minister for Transport and Main Roads: please look at the entire western suburbs corridor, not only what exists on the Centenary Motorway and Western Freeway but also certainly what is needed in the electorate of Moggill, particularly in relation to traffic congestion on Moggill Road as well as additional solutions for pedestrian and cyclist safety and additional public transport, which is needed and will also reduce traffic congestion.