



Speech By
James Martin

MEMBER FOR STRETTON

Record of Proceedings, 20 April 2023

TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note



Mr MARTIN (Stretton—ALP) (3.28 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker—

Ms Pugh: Happy birthday!

Mr MARTIN: I take that interjection! I rise to speak to the Transport and Resources Committee's report No. 24 of the 57th Parliament titled *Public works inquiry into the Sumners Road Interchange Upgrade project*. I acknowledge the work of the committee members on this important report. I thank individuals and organisations who made written submissions to the inquiry and appeared at public hearings. I also acknowledge the advocacy and efforts of the member for Mount Ommaney, someone I knew before she was the member for Mount Ommaney and who, even then, was advocating for this important upgrade.

The committee came to several positive conclusions about the project including that: the work was suitable for its purpose; the work was necessary and advisable; the work was reasonable value for money; the costs and recurrent costs of the work are reasonable; the work has had a positive impact on the community, the economy and the environment; the procurement method for the work was suitable; the balance of public and private sector involvement was satisfactory; and the work was completed according to specifications, and delivered ahead of time and within budget, while meeting contractual obligations.

It was certainly a good job done by TMR. This is another Palaszczuk government project delivered on time and under budget.

Ms Pugh: Early.

Mr MARTIN: Early and under budget. I will take that interjection. The committee resolved to conduct the public works inquiry into the Sumners Road Interchange Upgrade project in November 2021. It received a number of written submissions from stakeholders and subscribers, including TMR. The committee undertook a site inspection of the project, accompanied by TMR officers, on 18 March 2022. A public briefing was given by the director-general of the department.

Sumners Road was identified as an interchange that needed to be upgraded. Every day approximately 85,000 vehicles use the Centenary Motorway, with 35,000 of them using Sumners Road and Monier Road. These high traffic volumes meant that the interchange was operating beyond capacity, which resulted in queuing and delays on the adjoining exit and entry ramps.

By way of history, following three years of community engagement a concept plan was developed in 2012. However, the funding was deferred—cut—following a change in government. In case anyone was wondering, that was the Newman government. It was a victim of the strong choices of the Newman government. However, in 2017 the Palaszczuk government committed \$65 million to funding the

Sumners Road Interchange Upgrade. In September 2018, the design was released with an enhancement to deliver greater time savings, better transport facilities and better outcomes for the community. I am happy to report that significant savings during construction in respect of design management, insurances and contingencies resulted in the project being delivered well under budget. The project was completed and opened six months ahead of schedule, which certainly was a fantastic effort by all the workers involved—those from the department, planners and others.

The project included a new two-lane eastbound bridge, a new four-lane westbound bridge with provisions for pedestrians and active transport users, a separate cycle track as an underpass below the western intersection and a new signalised intersection to replace the existing roundabouts. The project upgrades have improved capacity, road user safety, connectivity and active transport accessibility for cyclists and pedestrians. Congestion at the intersection that previously presented serious safety issues has been vastly improved. The congestion also inhibited access to the Darra Railway Station, which affected freight reliability and passenger transit times. This has been improved as well.

Construction of the project began in July 2019 and the project was completed ahead of schedule in March 2021. The new four-lane bridge was subsequently named the Len Waters Overpass in honour of the first known Indigenous person to serve as a RAAF fighter pilot during World War II. Mr Waters passed away in 1993 and his family are residents in the local area.

The project is a great example of the Palaszczuk government's commitment to creating jobs, supporting our growing population and improving services in Queensland. We have seen seven record road and transport budgets in a row that have helped to build an impressive pipeline of projects. The most recent package is the \$29 billion four-year plan that will support over 25,000 jobs.

We are delivering the critical infrastructure to keep Queensland moving and ensure future growth and prosperity. I am particularly looking forward to seeing the completion of the \$30 million Illaweenah Street upgrade in my local area.