




Speech By
Jessica Pugh

MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Jindalee, Road Infrastructure

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (2.52 pm): Santa had one last goodie in his Santa sack last year. We announced late last year the awarding of the tender for the Centenary Motorway Jindalee bridge upgrade. It is a joint venture between BMD and the Georgiou Group. I was absolutely thrilled to stand alongside the Speaker of the federal parliament, Mr Milton Dick, and announce this on 27 December last year. The Jindalee bridge is good to go, and my community has already seen the working trucks out and about, scoping out the area. Works will start soon on this historic project and it cannot come soon enough. Last time we had a major upgrade on this bridge, they set up chairs on the bridge to open it. That is how old the last upgrade is.

I have said it before and I will say it again: this project means jobs for two reasons. Firstly, obviously there will be hundreds of jobs working on the construction of the bridge over a four-year period. Secondly, it will get this bridge moving again and improve our local productivity. Locals know that the Jindalee bridge is a real pinch point because of the short onramp at Jindalee. That onramp is decades old. It is not up to modern standards. It means that people are merging at a snail's pace. Right now, commute times into the city can be up to an hour and are getting worse every single day. That means that people in my community and beyond, in the communities in Ipswich, are struggling to get to work on time and then home again at the end of the day to their families and loved ones. Hundreds upon thousands of hours in work and play time will be saved by this upgrade.

Honourable members interjected.

Ms PUGH: Thank you very much; I take those interjections. We are very excited about this bridge upgrade. We have a lot of young families in our area, and I cannot count the number of parents who have contacted my office about this. They tell me it is a mad rush for them to get to their kids before the after-school care or kindergarten centre closes.

But wait, there's more. Locals will hopefully be aware by now, because it has hit their letterboxes, that community consultation is open now for the next stage of the motorway. We are looking at the scope of the motorway between Darra and Toowong. We are looking at what the next stage should be after the bridge is built. I attended the first community feedback session, which was on Valentine's Day. That was great, because I love the Centenary Motorway. I have conducted a number of my own feedback sessions. There has been some strong feedback that the dreaded Fig Tree Pocket merge should be one of the first sections tackled. I cannot say that I am surprised. I put the call out to every single person who uses this motorway: we want to hear from every single resident about what is important to them for that next stage. Is it noise barriers, tree retention, active transport, public transport or something that is not even on that survey?