




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY

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TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (3.38 pm): Is it Christmas? I have five minutes to talk about the Sumners Road overpass! Just this morning I got to turn the sod on the Centenary Bridge upgrade on the Centenary Motorway at Jindalee. To say I am excited would be the understatement of the millennium! I am sure the House is by now aware that the Sumners Road overpass is a fantastic project in my electorate—35,000 vehicles a day use that road. Many of those are heavy vehicles. This fantastic overpass over the Centenary Motorway services two business parks, as well as the communities of Darra and all of the Centenary suburbs.

This fantastic piece of infrastructure was a six-lane project built by the Queensland company BMD. They did, as we have heard from previous speakers, an absolutely outstanding job. I am absolutely thrilled that BMD will be working with the Georgiou Group on the Centenary Bridge upgrade as well. What fantastic news for my community. I thank the minister for joining with me this morning in turning the sod, alongside my federal friend the member for Oxley, Milton Dick.

The member for Callide asked earlier—maybe he was not listening—was the Sumners Road overpass project on time and on budget? I am thrilled to inform the House that in fact it was \$15 million under budget—that is a 25 per cent saving—and it was completed six months early thanks to the fantastic management of the BMD group and all the fantastic work that was done by Transport and Main Roads.

This project was strongly advocated for by so many locals in my community, including but not limited to every single person who lives in the Centenary suburbs and Darra of course. Seriously, we did have some fantastic community groups including the Jamboree Residents Association and the western suburbs bicycle users group. Their feedback was incredibly helpful. They also made a submission to the committee which was really valuable.

Members of the House have already mentioned—and I am very proud to have advocated for this—that this bridge is named after Len Waters, the first known Indigenous fighter pilot in World War II. His family lives in nearby Middle Park. It is especially poignant to have this bridge named after Len and opened when it was. It has only been a few short years since then but his wife, Gladys, who was so proud to be at the opening has since passed away. She was so proud on that day to cut the ribbon with the Premier. The look of joy and pride on her face is something I will never forget, alongside almost every member of Len's family and a lot of his friends as well.

This bridge opened up reliable travel time for members of the Centenary community which comprises a vast number of suburbs including Westlake, Riverhills, Sumner and so many more. Locals can now get across to the Darra train station where the travel time into the city on an express service is under half an hour. Previously Centenary residents were locked in a choke point to try to get to the Darra train station. They could not get there. They did not have reliable travel to the Darra train station so they could use that public transport.

This bridge has been a game changer for people in my community wanting to use public transport, wanting to get on that Darra train. It is about 22 minutes to the city on an express service. Of course they can now park their car at the newly opened Darra park-and-ride, where 440 car parks are now open. Centenary residents can use our new bridge, park in our new park-and-ride and soon they will be able to get on our new Cross River Rail and get into the city faster than ever.

To wrap up, this amazing project has been a game changer for my electorate. It finished six months early and 25 per cent under budget—\$15 million of extra value. To borrow a phrase from the Minister for Main Roads, 'It's awesome!' I commend the bridge to the House.