




Speech By
Lachlan Millar

MEMBER FOR GREGORY

Record of Proceedings, 20 April 2023

TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (3.33 pm): I rise to make a small contribution on the Transport and Resources Committee's report No. 24 of the 57th Parliament titled *Public works inquiry into the Sumners Road Interchange Upgrade project*. We found that it is a very well built road. It has been done well. It services the people in the western part of Brisbane. It is important to get people from the western part of Brisbane into the city.

I would like a fraction of the money spent on Sumners Road to be spent on the Peak Downs Highway. What about the Dawson Highway? I am glad the minister is in the chamber. We are talking about Sumners Road and the importance of Sumners Road, but I invite the minister to meet me in Emerald. I will pick him up from the airport and we can drive the Capricorn Highway from Emerald to Alpha. Let us see how he goes there. I would advise you—because I know you like to ride bikes—to bring your bicycle helmet to sit in the car because you will be hitting your head on the roof quite a few times.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Member for Gregory, please direct all comments through the chair.

Mr MILLAR: The minister will need a bicycle helmet. You should talk to the member for Burdekin about the Peak Downs Highway between Clermont and Moranbah—one of the most economically beneficial regions in Queensland in terms of the mining industry and transport industry. If just a little of the Sumners Road project funding went into the Peak Downs Highway it would make it safer for families and people working in the mines to get home, whether that be to Moranbah or Clermont. Let us talk about the Dawson Highway stretch between Moura and Rolleston.

Mr BAILEY: I rise to a point of order, Madam Deputy Speaker, on relevance. The member is clearly not referring to the committee report but taking this opportunity to talk about a few of his pet subjects. He is not mentioning all the sealing that we are doing in his electorate. I urge him to come back to the committee report.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Gregory, while I will give you some latitude to talk about other road projects, I encourage you to still be relevant to the report.

Mr MILLAR: Absolutely. The Sumners Road project was an example of people being very happy at the end of the project. It provides an opportunity for people to get to work and get home. I am comparing and contrasting that to what we have in the seat of Gregory. People want to get home on safe roads, whether it is the Peak Downs Highway, the Dawson Highway or many other roads in regional Queensland.

We had witnesses come forward who were very happy with the Sumners Road project. I thank the chair for his guidance with the Sumners Road inquiry. I thank the member for Mount Ommaney for bringing it forward. It showed what does work. When you put funding and the right people together you can get a great outcome.

I am comparing and contrasting that to regional Queensland. Where do we get that great outcome? We have people who need to get to the mines and need to get to work and the roads are getting to the point where they are unsafe. The No. 1 thing that people ring my office about—whether it is the office in Emerald or Longreach—is road conditions. Road conditions are certainly top of mind for people when it comes to getting home safely and living in regional communities.

The Sumners Road project was finished on time and under budget; thank you. How about we try to finish some things in Central Queensland—the Dawson Highway or the Peak Downs Highway to Moranbah or Moranbah to Nebo.

Mr BAILEY: I rise to a point of order, Madam Deputy Speaker, again on relevance. He is veering well off the committee report.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, can I please encourage you to stick to the committee report.

Mr MILLAR: The minister is very proud of the Sumners Road project. I know the member for Mount Ommaney is very proud of it. It is a project that has worked and has benefits for people in western Brisbane. What about people in Western Queensland? That is what I am trying to get to. If the minister could direct a little of the money from the Sumners Road project to the Dawson Highway, the Peak Downs Highway, the Capricorn Highway to allow people to have safe roads to travel on, we would love that. Minister, you have a budget coming up soon and I am expecting to see some line items.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, please direct all comments through the chair.

Mr MILLAR: Absolutely. When the budget comes down in coming weeks I expect that it will have some line items that reflect the importance of regional Queensland. Sumners Road is important and I am glad that we did the investigation of that project. It showed what can happen when people come together and get a project going. It was delivered under budget and on time.

How about we do that for Western Queensland. How about we do that for the Capricorn Highway. How about we do that for people using the Peak Downs Highway. The mining industry and agricultural industry put a lot of money into the state government, whether it is through trade or royalties. How about we spend some of those royalties back where they belong—in Western Queensland.