




Speech By
Shane King

MEMBER FOR KURWONGBAH

Record of Proceedings, 20 April 2023

TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (3.02 pm): I move—

That the House take note of the Transport and Resources Committee Report No. 24, 57th Parliament, *Public Works inquiry into the Summers Road Interchange Upgrade project*, tabled on 26 October 2022.

Our committee resolved to look into this upgrade project in November 2021, as well as the Peninsula Development Road in Far North Queensland, as part of the scrutiny role our committee has under the transport portfolio that we cover. This project was championed from day one by the hardworking local member for Mount Ommaney, Jess Pugh. We would not have it without her. In a previous life I used to cross that old bridge, travelling from the depot I worked at at Richlands to Powerlink's West Darra substation. That was quite a while ago and I have to say that the bridge needed an upgrade back then due to traffic holdups so thank you to the member for Mount Ommaney for giving us the subject of this inquiry. We appreciate it.

Our terms of reference were, as typical with public works inquiries: the stated purpose of the works and the apparent suitability of the works for the purpose; the necessity for, and the advisability of, the works; value for money achieved, or likely to be achieved, by the works; revenue produced by, and recurrent costs of, the works or estimates of revenue and costs for the works; the present and prospective public value of the works; procurement method for the works; the balance of public and private sector involvement in the works; the performance of the constructing authority for the works and the consultants and contractors for the works; and the actual suitability of the works in meeting the needs and in achieving the stated purpose of the works.

I am glad to say that after our inquiry our committee concluded 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 environment and the economy; the procurement method for the work was suitable; the balance of private and public sector involvement in the work was satisfactory; and the work was completed according to specifications and delivered ahead of time and within budget while meeting contractual obligations. There was no statement of reservation from the non-government members so I can safely say we all agree that this was a well-run, great job by the department. We had a public briefing from the director-general of DTMR and our public hearing also attracted the bicycle users group that collaborated heavily on the design of the upgrade, and I would like to thank them both for assisting with our inquiry.

The project costs initially started at \$65 million but due to design changes went up by \$15 million to \$89 million. That is not bad though because the design changes were to increase the projected life of the project. However, savings during construction resulted in the project being delivered under this budget and back at the original \$65 million with all the upgrade designs built in. It was a great job by the department. The upgrade was delivered six months ahead of schedule. It was a win-win for all involved, especially the enthusiastic member for Mount Ommaney. Going by her enthusiasm for the

completed project, the community loves it as well. I have some highway interchange projects in my area. The member for Bancroft and I have worked hard to get them so we can both relate to the member's elation.

I would like to thank the current and former members of the Transport and Resources Committee for their work on this report. We have had some changes in our membership over the time since this inquiry started. I was the only member available to visit the project site on the day so I encourage my colleagues to have a look at the interchange if they are out that way, in particular the bicycle tunnel which is amazing. The way that has been done is quite special. I would also like to thank our hardworking secretariat staff. We have had some changes there as well. We appreciate that they have picked up the ball and run with this. There has been a lot of hard work and it is noticed. I would finally like to thank all the department officials for their assistance during the committee's site visit. I commend this report to the House.