



Speech By  
**Tim Nicholls**


**MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD**

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Record of Proceedings, 20 April 2023

**TRANSPORT AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**Report, Motion to Take Note**

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (3.43 pm): I was not going to speak on this committee report, but commentary by the Minister for Main Roads and some other misrepresentation of the history of this matter compel me to say a few short words. Firstly, I have to disagree with the member for Gregory. Member for Gregory, the people of Mount Ommaney and places west do not need to thank the current member for Mount Ommaney. They need to thank ‘Tanya’ Smith, who was the member for Mount Ommaney, who was out there—

**Ms PUGH:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Not only is that the use of incorrect titles, but her name is Tarnya, not Tanya.

**Mr Bailey:** Tarnya—you don’t even know her name, you idiot!

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Lui): Order, members!

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** What is your point of order, member for Clayfield?

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Obviously it was the unparliamentary language that the minister used which I found offensive. I ask him to withdraw because he is a serial offender.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Minister, the member for Clayfield has taken offence to your comment. Do you withdraw?

**Mr BAILEY:** I withdraw. I take personal offence to the comment made by the member for Clayfield and I ask that he withdraw.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Clayfield, you have the call.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** The former member for Mount Ommaney, Tarnya Smith, has done all the hard yards in terms of raising this issue. Let me correct some of the record made by the member for Millar. Firstly, he said that this was a project of the Bligh government. Let me tell you what the Bligh government left behind in 2012 when the Newman government was elected in terms of planning for the Sumners Road overpass. What they left behind is slightly better than everything else they left behind: they left nothing, not a plan.

We went to the cupboard and opened the cupboard and asked the department of transport, ‘Where’s the plan for this so-called Sumners Road overpass that you think you’ve funded?’ They said, ‘Sorry, Minister. Sorry, government. There is no plan.’ There was no plan and the minister knows there was no plan, like there was no plan to upgrade the Bruce Highway, like there was no plan to fix the \$200 million-plus maintenance backlog in the schools, like there was no plan to fund the police radio system that saw police—

**Mr BAILEY:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member for Clayfield clearly is not speaking to the report. He is getting way off track. I ask him to come back to the report that we are actually debating here.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I will get some advice. Member, while I will give you some latitude, I encourage you to come back to the report.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Of course, Madam Deputy Speaker. I was in fact referring to the report itself, talking about a concept plan for the upgrade being developed in 2012. The reason why a concept plan had to be developed in 2012 was because there was no plan. The only reason you deliver a draft plan is because there is not one previously. Like everything else that the Bligh government touched, it had all been in their imagination. It was an announcement made for the sake of an announcement in the lead-up to an election with no money behind it. Have we heard that playbook roll out since 2012! Let me say this: there was no plan by this government to fund the Sumners Road overpass until the election commitment was made to match the LNP commitment in 2017 to fund the Sumners Road overpass. That is where it came from and the report itself—

**Mr BAILEY:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member is clearly misleading the chamber. I ask that he correct what he said and apologise. That is clearly misleading.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Minister, there is a process for misleading the House. I encourage you to write to the Speaker.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** The report itself states on page 18—

No funding was allocated in QTRIP 2012-13 to 2015-16.

That is correct because there was no plan. It continues—

Funding was allocated in QTRIP in 2018-19 ...

That is four years after the Palaszczuk Labor government was elected. It was not one of their first top-of-the-pops priorities in 2015-16. It was not there in 2016-17. It was not there in 2017-18. It was not there until 2018-19—almost three years later and after an election commitment.

Any story that this was a cunning plan or even a thought through plan by the Palaszczuk Labor government is quite blatantly false because there was no funding and it was not even mentioned. Those of us who can remember back to the Palaszczuk government's budget blueprint that was in fact tabled in this place—their secret business plan in 2015-16—will recall there was no mention of the Sumners Road overpass and the report itself shows there was no funding for it. For 4½ years the Sumners Road bypass languished on the backbench. It was of no concern to the minister, it was of no concern to the Premier, it was of no concern to the Labor government until they had to match the election commitment that Tarnya Smith fought so hard for.

The minister was part of the council administration that gave us the Coronation Drive tidal flow system. That was so unsuccessful and such a catastrophe that it had to be ripped out at a cost of millions and millions of dollars. To have the minister lecture this side of the House about planning for projects, for a project that was never planned and never delivered and in fact took another four years for them to get interested in after they were elected, speaks volumes in relation to this government's capacity to plan for the future. As always with this government, it is important to set the record straight.