




Speech By
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ADJOURNMENT

Toowoomba North South Transport Corridor

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (6.03 pm): Today I would like to address the corridor that is to run from north to south around the western side of Toowoomba and the Highfields southern connector corridor. There has been a lot of angst about this in my community and I know that the minister has received a fair amount of correspondence in relation to it. I hope that the petition that was tabled this week, which had 10,360 signatures on it, will help the minister make a decision to stop the existing process, consult with the community and find a better corridor than the one proposed.

The proposed corridor has the potential to upset some traditional custodians. I table a submission from the custodians at Gummingurru. The road will affect a significant spiritual and cultural landscape. I have a couple of copies of the submission for the ministers. I see they are both here and I would love to share it with them because the corridor should avoid and give a wide scope to that area.

Tabled paper: Document, dated 14 August 2023, titled, 'Gummingurru Ceremonial Site and Cultural Landscape: A vitally significant spiritual place' [1199](#).

Where possible, the corridor should also avoid people's homes, some of which have been there for many generations. In the very northern part, outside of my electorate, there is concern about koala habitat. I understand the department has used some mapping that is potentially a bit out of date. People have developed land and built homes in recent times. This project needs a serious review, whether it is about the effect on cultural heritage, the environment or, most importantly, people's homes and lifestyles. I think we can do better. My community accepts that we need a corridor but we can do better than the corridor that is proposed.

There are a few outstanding questions. Alternatives were considered, but nobody has seen them. We would like to see the selection criteria for this particular track and the consultation process that is going to be implemented with direct landholders, particularly those whose homes would be directly impacted when there is an alternative near them. I hope that the minister will, with good conscience, look at this process, consider halting it and then restart it with a more consultative approach