




Speech By
Jimmy Sullivan

MEMBER FOR STAFFORD

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ADJOURNMENT

Stafford Electorate, School Transport Infrastructure Program

 **Mr SULLIVAN** (Stafford—ALP) (7.21 pm): I rise to celebrate the fantastic news that our School Transport Infrastructure Program, STIP, has achieved great results for two local school communities. At Wavell Heights, I have been onsite with the principal many times where \$307,000 is being spent across school and parish land as well as on the council road access. This will double the drop-off and pick-up zones. I think everybody who has kids will know what that means. Huge improvements will be made to pedestrian access and safety for students, which is really our priority. It will also provide improved cover so that kids do not get wet when it rains or burnt on hot days, particularly at pick-up time.

I thank Matt and the entire leadership team. Over the past 18 months or so they have worked closely with government to get us where we are today. I am very proud of what has been achieved. I look back on the early meetings and compare that to where we are today, with secured funding. I cannot wait to see the work begin, obviously around school demand. I thank the DTMR officers, the Minister for Transport, who signed off on it, and the former minister for transport who instigated the program. It is great to see.

Secondly, I want to talk about the Turner Road precinct and two projects that will impact three schools. Mount Alvernia College, Padua College and St Anthony's Primary School are effectively co-located. It is quite a unique situation. They will receive \$479,000 to improve three crossings that are among the busiest across the north side. The zebra crossings will be turned into wombat crossings, which will slow down traffic. That is great news for what is called the Foth, the Franciscans on the Hill community. I cannot wait to see that. There is close coordination between all three schools across four co-located campuses, plus the two OSHC providers that operate onsite.

The strength of the application was recognised in the cross-campus existence of students that already exists. Shockingly, when we sent the application to the LNP council they said, 'No, we don't think you need to do anything. We don't support your application, but we won't stop you going ahead with it.' Basically, they graciously said that they would not stop us from doing their job. A week later, they found extra money for a location that was 500 metres away and totally unrelated to our plan. I will keep working for my community. I will keep working for our schools in a coordinated fashion and I am not going to let politics get in the way of it.