




Speech By
Jonty Bush

MEMBER FOR COOPER

Record of Proceedings, 15 February 2024

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Waterworks Road

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (2.48 pm): I represent a beautiful part of Brisbane in the inner west and it is no wonder, therefore, that the inner west has had such a great population explosion. While we welcome our new neighbours and our new friends, regrettably I have been so underwhelmed by the lack of planning and the lack of vision by the current LNP Brisbane City Council administration and its plans for the inner west. We have had really large population growth, but there is no strategic vision for the inner west like other councils have. The Brisbane City Council has no crime prevention strategy, unlike other councils. There is no climate resilience and disaster planning strategy by the LNP council, unlike other councils.

Today I was going to talk broadly about planning but my speech went on and on and I only have three minutes, so I will confine myself to just one issue—that is, Waterworks Road. Many of us would know Waterworks Road. It is the main arterial road in my electorate. It goes from the back of The Gap all the way through Ashgrove to Red Hill in the inner city. There are 35,000 cars on that road every day. It is a really busy road. It is very congested, quite dangerous and it is a Brisbane City Council owned road. Unfortunately, it also has a tragic reputation of being one of RACQ's most dangerous roads in Australia year on year and that is only getting worse.

I want to acknowledge that last night we did have a terrible accident on Waterworks Road. I have spoken to police this morning and understand that the two drivers are now in a stable condition, downgraded from critical. My thoughts are with them and their families. I thank also the first responders who did respond. It is a sharp reminder why we need some urgent work on Waterworks Road. It has not had a major upgrade in two decades. It was a Labor government that did the expansion of Waterworks Road. Anyone driving on that road could speak to the congestion and danger. It is a council responsibility to do the work to upgrade Waterworks Road.

Whilst I enjoy a professional working relationship with our council colleagues, I would not be doing my community justice if I did not stand here and speak out about Waterworks Road today. Another complicating factor is that there are rumours that there will be an application for a sealed road to connect the back of Upper Kedron with Waterworks Road. Upper Kedron has a population of 6,000 people. While we welcome them, by ABS standards half of those people drive every day to work. That is 3,000 vehicles. A conservative estimate might be 1,000 additional vehicles onto Waterworks Road. It simply cannot cope with the demand.

I would like to know what council's plan is to look at the planning more broadly. What are they doing with Waterworks Road? So many people want active and public transport options. We have been asking council for years, but nothing is coming forward.