




Speech By
Hon. Nikki Boyd

MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS

Record of Proceedings, 22 May 2024

MOTION

Transport Infrastructure

 **Hon. N BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (Minister for Fire and Disaster Recovery and Minister for Corrective Services) (6.07 pm): I rise to support the amended motion moved by the Minister for Transport. There have been massive investments made by Labor governments in my community of Pine Rivers since 2015 that reduce congestion and improve the lifestyle and accessibility for people in my community to move around. I was proud less than 12 months ago to stand with the Treasurer and the members for Aspley and Stafford to announce that we would investigate the Gympie Road bypass tunnel. I was proud because I appreciate just how essential it is to improve the commute along Gympie Road and the surrounding arteries. This is a project that only Labor will invest in. We are only the party with a vision to commit to this type of project. I know that we are the only party that would ever make the commitment needed to get this project right.

As our regions of Moreton Bay and the Sunshine Coast continue to grow at rapid speeds, we must invest to have better road connectivity and congestion-busting projects delivered. This project will bypass 19 sets of traffic lights. It is also anticipated to slash 30 minutes off the travel times in peak hour. Further than that, it is also anticipated that this will ease the strain on the surrounding connectors and key roads.

Often described as the missing link, I have long been a vocal advocate for better connectivity for our north side commuters. Unlike the south side, the number of traffic lights people need to contend with on the north side to move around is considerable. It was not planned properly before it was populated. A tunnel is the only solution to make a considerable improvement for my community in the way that we move around the north side. I have long advocated for safer roads and road improvements that help in busting congestion within the electoral boundaries of Pine Rivers, but I have a deep appreciation for the need for large-scale infrastructure to make a really meaningful impact—and that is what this bypass tunnel will achieve.

I thank the members of my community who between 30 October and 3 December engaged in the consultation process to inform the investment proposal. When my community engaged with this investment proposal, it was made clear that the proposal was being prepared for the state government's consideration in mid-2024. For the benefit of those members opposite, 'midyear' by its definition is the 183rd day of the year, which is 2 July. In the instance of a leap year, it is midnight between 1 July and 2 July. Mark it in your calendar, member for Chatsworth.

It is not a surprise to me that there is overwhelming support for the Miles Labor government's proposal to build the Gympie Road bypass tunnel. I hear it all the time from my community. One of the milestones in this work that was particularly exciting to me was the opportunity I had on 22 February to get out on site with the geotechs and see the investigation work they are completing to inform the

investment proposal. It was here that I saw them digging 60 metres down and extracting 200-million-year-old rock to be sampled to understand the composition of the environment in the seven-kilometre stretch of the proposed tunnel.

Mr Mellish interjected.

Ms BOYD: I take the interjection from the member for Aspley. It was like Christmas for those geotech engineers as they talked me through the different levels of prehistoric earth and the complexities of what this meant to the planning and construction of a tunnel. A simple briefing from experts would have prevented this motion being moved in the House tonight because it would not take long through a briefing for there to be a deep appreciation around what is needed to be gathered by experts to inform an investment proposal.

It is understandable that the LNP are entirely out of their depth on matters like this. We need look no further than their record when they were last in government to appreciate why—gutting the transport budget and cutting the workforce in TMR by more than 20 per cent. The only new infrastructure project that was built on their watch was the ‘tower of power’—a new office for themselves at 1 William Street.

This is simply another opportunity for the LNP to claim kudos for the Gympie Road bypass tunnel. We have seen them try to take the kudos already with misleading billboards. It is very clear to all watching that the LNP are operating in a policy vacuum. They are very big on slogans but very short on ideas. How on earth can they propose to govern Queensland if they cannot even govern themselves? I welcome the LNP producing one single meaningful plan for Queensland, but I will not hold my breath. They are so bereft of ideas that they have to have a death march into the gallery rather than propose a good motion.

(Time expired)