




Speech By
Hon. Nikki Boyd

MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS

Record of Proceedings, 22 August 2024

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Pine Rivers Electorate, Transport Infrastructure

 **Hon. N BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (Minister for Fire and Disaster Recovery and Minister for Corrective Services) (2.22 pm): The Miles government is doing what matters for Queensland. In the just over two weeks since 50-cent fares started, we have seen South-East Queensland commuters return to public transport, with public transport use in South-East Queensland reaching 99 per cent of pre-COVID levels. This includes heavy rail, up 15 per cent from last year. In my first speech in this place I made my commitment to delivering a better integrated transport network. This included a train station at Strathpine that was equipped with improved equity of access. Through strong advocacy, this is something I have already delivered, with our government's accessibility upgrade at Strathpine station. I also spoke in my first speech about having a train station at Strathpine without a dangerous level crossing to remove lengthy delays for commuters and allow for more train services.

I am determined to deliver what matters for my community, whether it be cost-of-living relief through 50-cent fares, equitable access to Strathpine station or the unfinished business of the open level crossing at South Pine Road, Strathpine. This is in stark contrast to the LNP. We know that they will never invest in our transport system. When last in government they cut \$1.6 billion from our transport budget and sacked 1,700 rail workers.

We have overseen a record investment in our transport system through South-East Queensland including Cross River Rail, and this opens up so many more possibilities. We can deliver more services more often along the Caboolture line, but we need to fix the Strathpine level crossing to make the most of this huge investment. I know that the Strathpine level crossing is increasing commute times on our roads and is continuing to cause safety concerns for motorists and pedestrians. It is the entry to a critical artery for the bustling industrial hub of Brendale. South Pine is an essential road in our network as well. Right now it is a choke point, and I want to see it functioning with far less delays.

Busting congestion and creating safer roads are two of my top priorities. That is why I am launching a local campaign and taking up the fight to fix the Strathpine level crossing. Our growing community deserves to be heard and I want them to be. That is why I can inform the House that I am kicking off a campaign to fund a level crossing study for Strathpine. We can start the process of removing this dangerous level crossing for our community.

I recall that when I first was elected Shelley took me to that spot. She is in a motorised scooter. She was at the level crossing as a pedestrian when she was hit by a train while trying to cross the road at South Pine. I have seen firsthand the impact this is having on the lives of members of our community. I want to make sure that we make improvements to this space. That is why I am so committed to ensuring this campaign kicks off.