




Speech By
Steve Minnikin

MEMBER FOR CHATSWORTH

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ADJOURNMENT

Northern Transitway

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (7.01 pm): I would like to start my contribution to the adjournment debate by reading a direct quote from a Facebook post and then I will table the document. The post states—

People tell me more needs to be done to tackle congestion on Gympie Road, so today we are taking action.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member, I would prefer that you do not need to speak over the top of the din. Everyone leaving the chamber will please do so quietly as a courtesy to the member on his feet.

Mr MINNIKIN: It continues—

A re-elected Palaszczuk Government will deliver continuous dedicated bus lanes during peak hours all the way from Cherside to Kedron—without losing any of the existing lanes. This \$53 million Northern Transitway will reduce congestion right across the northside and in the Aspley electorate, meaning people will spend less time in traffic, and more with their families.

Tabled paper: Extract, dated 16 November 2017, from a social media page of the member for Aspley, Mr Bart Mellish MP, in relation to congestion on Gympie Road [191](#).

That was written by the member for Aspley. This time it is not the member for Miller; it is the member for Aspley, Minister Mellish. What is it with Labor? Like trying to mix oil and water, it does not work. This was a \$53 million project that now, according to QTRIP, has blown out to over \$172 million. There is a recurring theme here, whether that is under the former minister or the new minister. I say 'new' because—guess what—the training wheels are well and truly off as he has been part and parcel of this since 2017, which was when the Facebook post is dated.

The reality is this: the project has blown out from \$53 million to \$172 million. It was meant to be finished in early 2023. The source document, the Northern Transitway community update dated April 2021, states, 'Main construction activities will follow and continue through to early 2023' and here we are in early 2024. They are absolutely hopeless when it comes to delivering projects on time and on budget.

What do the small business people along Gympie Road say? We must remember that the project now stops short. The bit from Rode Road to Hamilton Road has been stopped. Roughly one-third of the project is simply not happening. The manager of the Cherside Motor Inn, Santhosh, is going absolutely ballistic over disruption. Peter Lincoln, who owns the post office and newsagency on Gympie Road, and Padua College, which the member for Aspley may have heard of, have been impacted. A local disability centre has had its designated bus stop shifted numerous times, with no warning, leaving clients confused as to where to get on and off the bus. The water supply has been turned off without adequate notice. That information is meant to be listed on the TMR website. There is only one problem: the website is not accurate. That is causing disturbance and issues for retailers who are trying to pay rent but have no customers coming in. The Northern Transitway project is another disaster although not in the making; it is a disaster right now under the minister's watch.