




Speech By
Steve Minnikin

MEMBER FOR CHATSWORTH

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ADJOURNMENT

Bremer River Bridge

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (7.24 pm): We have had ‘rail fail’ and now we have ‘bridge fail’. Ipswich West residents are being kept in the dark over the Bremer River Bridge delays. On 29 February, *Greater Springfield Today* published an article titled ‘Did Bremer bridge heal itself? No answer from TMR.’ The article states—

The saga of the crumbling Bremer River Bridge on the Warrego Highway continues as Transport and Main Roads defends seven months of unspecified works that have failed to yield any progression, or to reveal a plan to repair it.

It is very interesting that the article went on to quote the former member for Ipswich West, Jim Madden, who talked about the things that people in Ipswich West and surrounding areas see as bandaid solutions. That was put to the then minister for transport and main roads, who pretty much used the Schultz defence: ‘I know nothing!’ The more things change, the more little changes.

Mr BAILEY: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Obviously I find those comments personally offensive. I ask that they be withdrawn.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): The member for Miller finds your comments offensive. Do you withdraw?

Mr MINNIKIN: I withdraw. Crossovers for contraflow and associated infrastructure are being installed at the Bremer River Bridge due to maintenance work being done on westbound issues. That would indicate that significant closures will be happening soon but—and here is the rub—residents are not being told anything prior to the Ipswich West by-election. Last year TMR identified significant maintenance issues on the westbound Bremer River Bridge, hence the article. The department has since imposed load limits and speed reductions, which are not only significantly impacting heavy vehicle movements but also causing inconvenience to the good burghers of Ipswich West.

We know all too well about the impacts that ‘rail fail’ had a couple of years ago, and now we have ‘bridge fail’. TMR, through the minister, is not being transparent so that, pre-poll and on the big dance day, the people can use their 2B lead pencils to cast proper judgement. This government does not want Queenslanders to know exactly what is happening with that important piece of infrastructure.

If this government’s behaviour is not going to change then it is time to change the government. The people of Ipswich West can start that change at their by-election. The LNP has a great candidate for Ipswich West in Darren Zanow. Darren has been hitting the ground running. He has been doorknocking. He knows exactly the lay of the land. I have spent time out there with him, as have many of my colleagues from this side of the chamber. I can tell the House that he absolutely knows what is required—that is, a change to an LNP member at the coming by-election. Darren will be the man.