



Speech By  
**Barbara O'Shea**


**MEMBER FOR SOUTH BRISBANE**

---

Record of Proceedings, 21 May 2025

## **ADJOURNMENT**

### **Story Bridge**

 **Dr O'SHEA** (South Brisbane—ALP) (11.04 pm): I rise this evening to bring to the attention of the House the ongoing closure of the pedestrian and cycling paths on the Story Bridge and the uncertainty about the bridge's future. The Story Bridge is Brisbane's most iconic and recognisable landmark. It links Kangaroo Point in my community in the south to Fortitude Valley in the north. The abrupt closure of both footpaths on 5 March this year significantly disrupted the daily travel of up to 4,000 pedestrians and cyclists. The lack of access to the city has particularly inconvenienced residents of Kangaroo Point which, despite being one of the most densely populated suburbs in Brisbane, is still waiting for a CityCat service.

While most residents initially understood and accepted the closure of the paths due to safety concerns related to Tropical Cyclone Alfred, the extended duration of their closure without any clear timeframe for reopening has generated significant frustration amongst my community of South Brisbane and across Brisbane more generally. The subsequent announcement from Brisbane City Council last week revealing the rapidly deteriorating condition of not only the pedestrian paths but also the very structure of the Story Bridge has only exacerbated community alarm.

The report from the council's Story Bridge Restoration Committee advises that the 85-year-old bridge requires major restoration work to ensure it remains fully operational. This is of particular urgency given the importance of this vital piece of infrastructure for the upcoming Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games; however, this restoration cannot be left for council alone to manage. Significant investment from all three levels of government will be needed to restore this Queensland landmark.

The Australian government has already provided \$2.25 million to the council to develop a business case for the full restoration works. I urge the Queensland government to play an active role in this planning process and commit to funding a portion of the restoration works alongside the local and federal governments. Particular attention should be given to fast-tracking repair work on at least one of the two footpaths to re-establish access to the city and Kangaroo Point for pedestrians and active transport users. Clear communication and regular updates on the expected timeline for the reopening of one of the footpaths would be greatly appreciated and beneficial for all affected commuters.