




Speech By
Charis Mullen

MEMBER FOR JORDAN

Record of Proceedings, 14 March 2025

ADJOURNMENT

Centenary Highway

 **Ms MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (9.01 pm): I look forward to hearing the member for Keppel's ongoing contribution in two weeks time for this super-urgent bill that we needed to pass. Can't wait! It was so super-urgent! Were they telling the truth then or are they telling the truth now? It is clearly not that urgent.

The Centenary Highway is one of our most important transport corridors and it is particularly important to the motorists of the Jordan electorate. Since my election, we have seen an increasing focus on the Centenary, and rightly so given it is servicing one of the fastest growing regions of Queensland. Just in the past four years under Labor we saw the completion of the \$15 million Centenary Highway-Logan Motorway interchange upgrade and the completion of the \$80 million Sumners Road interchange upgrade. We made the investment in the \$298.5 million Centenary Bridge upgrade, which is currently under construction, and in a matter of weeks we will have completed the \$6.5 million upgrade of the Centenary Highway exit 32.

We also made an investment in significant planning and funding for future upgrades of the Centenary Highway. This includes the section from Darra to Toowong and from Darra to Yamanto. This section of the highway is particularly critical for our Ipswich communities including Greater Springfield, Redbank Plains, White Rock, Ripley Valley, Deebling Heights and Yamanto. The funding allocated is aimed at providing a master plan for future lane duplication, interchanges, on- and off-ramps and active travel such as the extension of the Centenary cycleway. The first stage of motorway preservation is meant to have started. However, Ipswich MPs are now in the dark about this project. Despite a written request to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads to allow TMR to provide us with an updated briefing, I understand we are still waiting to have this confirmed. My greatest concern right now is that this critical work will be delayed and potentially cut by the new LNP government. I want a reassurance and a briefing by the minister that work is continuing at pace on this. I also want to see continued investment in the Centenary Motorway. The section between exit 31 and exit 33 needs to be upgraded first. Even TMR officers admitted to me that this section is a priority given the daily congestion we are experiencing.

In January TMR suddenly closed an on-ramp to the Centenary Motorway. They then closed the exit 32 off-ramp from Brisbane, a major off-ramp for peak afternoon traffic. It caused mayhem, but as a state member I was not provided with any advice of this, not a phone call, not a formal notice—nothing. When I urgently reached out to metropolitan region multiple times I was finally advised that they could not talk to me about it. Once I went public with the fact that I was being denied important information, TMR suddenly became available to speak to me. I do want to acknowledge that the minister also rang me to assure me he had not given a direction to TMR and I have accepted this and I hope it is true, though several of my colleagues on this side of the House are sharing similar stories with me. I have now sought another urgent update because this is not good enough.

