



Speech By
Wendy Bourne

MEMBER FOR IPSWICH WEST

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Bremer River Bridge

 **Ms BOURNE** (Ipswich West—ALP) (2.31 pm): Today I once again rise to speak about road infrastructure in my electorate in Ipswich West and no, Premier, it is not 'Brisbane west'. I call out the lack of transparency surrounding the Bremer River bridge project on the Warrego Highway—a project that has gone from an \$85 million commitment to strengthen and replace a structurally compromised bridge deck to what now appears to be a patch-up job with no clear explanation.

Let me remind the House: in 2024 the previous state Labor government secured \$42.5 million for the strengthening of the Bremer River bridge westbound, with a matching \$42.5 million from the federal Labor government. This was not a dollar figure plucked out of the air. It certainly was not information obtained from travelling down the river on a jet ski like the previous member. It was backed by a full departmental business case identifying structural deficiencies and fatigue cracks in the steel bridge that demanded a complete deck replacement. However, here we are one year later and suddenly, without public notice or explanation, that plan has been dramatically altered.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads under this government now claims a deck replacement is no longer necessary. Instead, they plan to weld the fatigue cracks and call it a day. I say to the minister that this is not how you maintain confidence in public infrastructure; this is how you erode it. The minister and his department owe our community answers because right now it looks like this government has quietly walked away from an \$85 million promise and is hoping no-one notices. Ipswich West has noticed. I call out the lack of information the community has received on this important issue.

I think the Minister for Transport and Main Roads needs to take himself and his department for an inspection and a safety check. I am not sure whether it is from applying the brakes for too long or whether it is a steering problem, but it is clear that he would fail a roadworthy certificate. Whether it is about the Bremer River bridge, Mount Crosby interchange, Mount Crosby overpass repairs, Schultz Road intersection—and I have lobbied the minister and the department regarding a speed limit reduction at this dangerous intersection—the Amberley interchange or the second river crossing, there is no acceleration and the check-system light is constantly on. The minister has been driving this department for nearly a year now and I am concerned that he does not know what is under the hood and his GPS is faulty.

We have noticed that he made it into Springfield to discuss our infrastructure. He missed our electorate by that much. He suggested that he would progressively chip away at our infrastructure needs. We have read in the paper how the previous member for Ipswich West has come out swinging at the minister's department and its decisions. I table a copy of that article. We cannot afford to see that money quietly redirected to another postcode.

Tabled paper: Article from Ipswich West Moreton, dated 9 October, titled 'Zanow takes aim at TMR' [1601](#).