




Speech By
Bart Mellish

MEMBER FOR ASPLEY

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

North Brisbane, Transport Infrastructure

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (2.24 pm): During the last sitting week I spoke about how this LNP Crisafulli government is cutting transport projects on the Sunshine Coast. If we go just a little further south, there is an area that the LNP is neglecting just as badly. When it comes to north Brisbane and the Moreton Bay region, the LNP are simply cutting every project they can get their hands on or pushing off every project they are too scared to say they are cutting.

We kicked off an early works package on the Linkfield Road project in 2024. That majority federally funded project took a few years to get off the ground, back when the former members for Petrie and Dickson—Luke Howarth and Peter Dutton, of course—first promised the project without actually putting any money in the forward estimates. It took years of lobbying by the member for Pine Rivers and me to get it back in the federal budget and the election of a federal Albanese government to actually get it into gear. However, now the LNP have put it on the never-never.

In a recent ABC Radio interview, when asked a very simple question about what is happening with the project the transport minister gave an essay. I would read out the full response but it goes for about half an hour. Steve Austin asked a question from one of his listeners: 'Is there any plan to upgrade the Linkfield Road overpass at Bald Hills?' Bear with me here. The minister said—

Another bridge unfortunately we've seen impacts on, I think it's 4.6 metres off the top of my head so it has been struck in recent years and probably as well has not coped with population growth, that whole corridor whether its Linkfield Road, Beams Road, just up the road. I'm a Sunny Coast local so every time I drive to Brissy I hit traffic through that stretch of road.

We made an election commitment at the last election to upgrade Beams Road intersection, we're getting on with that design work at the moment and that's linked to the Linkfield Road work as well, we need to ensure that we stage that appropriately ...

He goes on to say—

What we need to ensure is that we stage this, we can't fix everything at once, for all sorts of reasons ...

And the answer goes on.

What a cop-out. The minister used to say he would deliver these projects on time and on budget, but now the timeline and the funding have seemingly disappeared. The LNP are now breaking transport election commitments right across the state for 'all sorts of reasons'. The members for Sandgate, Pine Rivers and I will not rest until this project is started.

In a similar manner, this government has completely stopped talking about the Gympie Road bypass tunnel project, after campaigning strongly on it during the 2024 election campaign in Aspley. They had trucks, they had billboards and they had mail-outs saying how committed they were to that project, but it is not even in their Olympics transport plan. Can the north side kiss goodbye to the Gympie Road bypass tunnel being delivered before 2032? Sadly, I think we can assume so. The minister has even kicked it off for review—not that you would know that from this slick Premier who refuses to

acknowledge that he has cut any project. He just slogans his way through. Of course, before the election the Premier promised that he would honour everything in the 2024 budget, which both of those projects were in. Clearly, that was just more spin.

When it comes to buses, in a similar vein last week it was revealed by the Brisbane City Council—not even the state government—that the state government has scrapped both the zero emissions bus program and the northside bus network review, which was set to get underway this year. In 2024 I sat at the negotiating table across from Brisbane City Council and they agreed to a northside bus network review, but this state government is not holding for that. That is poor for transport and it is poor for congestion. This is a poor government.