




Speech By
Jessica Pugh

MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY

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ADJOURNMENT

Mount Ommaney Electorate, Infrastructure; Fuel Security

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (9.06 pm): I have been so proud to work alongside my community to advocate for and deliver critical infrastructure upgrades like the Sumners Road overpass and the Centenary Bridge upgrade that is currently underway. Right before the last election I was so proud to stand alongside the member for Murrumba and the members for Aspley and Inala to announce a feasibility study for the Centenary Motorway tunnel between Darra and Toowong. This announcement was the result of the advocacy of thousands of people both in my community and throughout the entire western corridor. I want to thank them again today in this House.

People in my community, as members in this House would be aware, are stuck on the Centenary Motorway every day. They do their best to use public transport and take advantage of Labor's 50-cent fares where possible, but sometimes they are doing school drop-offs, making multiple stops on their commute, and they need to use their cars. With the projected growth in this corridor we need the Minister for Transport and Main Roads to look to the future for our community.

With the Jindalee bridge well and truly underway thanks to the former Labor government, locals are rightly asking what is next. We all know the Fig Tree Pocket on-ramp desperately needs to be upgraded. There is congestion leading onto the bridge morning and night because the current design of the on-ramp is not fit for purpose. It is not safe to merge at speed and as a result people slow down and the traffic in the morning travelling outbound from the city can bank up right along the Centenary Motorway heading back towards the Toowong roundabout. There should not be traffic heading outbound in the morning but there is and it is the responsibility of this minister to do something about it.

In the time I have left I want to address the skyrocketing price of fuel in Queensland. I have already received correspondence from locals, as have many members of this House, including business owners, who have told me that while they survived COVID this may be the thing that breaks them. On Monday it was reported the average price of diesel in South-East Queensland was about \$2.90 per litre and unleaded was over \$2.40. With the school holidays and the Easter long weekend right around the corner, many families will be cancelling trips to save on fuel. The federal government has taken action. They are working with Asia-Pacific governments to shore up Australia's energy security and the ACCC is already investigating cases of price gouging. On behalf of my community, I am calling on the Crisafulli government to step up and act so that Queensland families and businesses can continue to access fuel when they need it and they can afford to get it at a reasonable price. We have seen the government adopt our transport policies when it suits them—just look at their enthusiasm for our 50-cent fares. It is time for them to listen to Queenslanders again and act to bring down fuel prices.