

Speech By

Wendy Bourne

MEMBER FOR IPSWICH WEST

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ADJOURNMENT

Ipswich West Electorate, Road Infrastructure

Ms BOURNE (Ipswich West—ALP) (9.06 pm): It may come as no surprise to those on this side of the chamber that I am again calling on this government to act on Ipswich West's critical road infrastructure needs. I have lost count of the number of letters I have sent, speeches I have delivered, petitions I have launched and direct representations I have made on this matter, but I will not rest until my community has the answers that they deserve and that this government refuses to provide.

The lack of clarity on the Amberley Interchange upgrade, a vital access point for my residents travelling along the Cunningham Highway and for the over 5,000 personnel at Australia's largest military base RAAF Base Amberley, is nothing short of appalling, especially given how clearly set out the funding and timelines were prior to October 2024. Queenslanders expect transparency from government but thus far those opposite have been anything but.

Maybe I have not adequately explained why this upgrade is so important so, in the interests of transparency, I will spell it out for those opposite. Ipswich is Queensland's fastest growing region, projected to nearly double in population by 2046. To support a growing population you need to invest in infrastructure—roads, for example. To upgrade a road you need money. Luckily for the Amberley Interchange they already have it—$200 million in federal funding sitting there begging to be spent, plus a few extra million from the former state government for good measure. The last step—which should be the easiest—is to spend that money on upgrading the road.

This, bizarrely, is where those opposite fall down. They are happy to splash thousands on billboards—ironically titled 'Delivering for Queensland'—in regions where the biggest thing they have delivered is the billboard. They are happy to spend millions on private hospital deals and jobs for mates, but when it comes to the Amberley Interchange they will not act. Members opposite may take to social media and baselessly accuse other levels of government of conspiracy. They spread misinformation and mislead our community, but they will not deliver for us. This government is nothing but broken promises—from the Amberley Interchange and Ipswich's Olympic venues to the Prince Charles Hospital in North Brisbane. I once again call on the government to honour its commitment to Ipswich West. The funding is there; the plans are there. What is missing is the will to act.