

Speech By

Wendy Bourne

MEMBER FOR IPSWICH WEST

Record of Proceedings, 2 June 2026

ADJOURNMENT

Ipswich West Electorate, Traffic Congestion

Ms BOURNE (Ipswich West—ALP) (9.21 pm): My community of Ipswich West continues to suffer through dangerous and lengthy commutes just to get to and from work. As Queensland's fastest growing region, pressure is mounting on the Centenary as a critical gateway to Ipswich and yet we are long overdue for basic upgrades to this critical thoroughfare. Too many people have lost hours in traffic on the Centenary, drip-feeding through to the western suburbs on a mere two-lane highway. And do not even think about doing this at night, when you will be driving in complete darkness. We are talking basics here—lane widening and safe lighting. This is basic infrastructure that our community is calling for.

The former Labor government proudly committed $3.2 million towards planning for the Darra to Yamanto section. That work is now complete and ready for the next stage of funding. My constituents use this highway every single day. That is people who live in communities such as Yamanto or who need to get to the RAAF base in Amberley. Those going to Amberley know only too well about a lack of clarity and progress when it comes to infrastructure like the Amberley interchange. I can only assume this government has an institutional and ideological contempt for the people of Ipswich West, with a complete disregard for the Amberley interchange, the Mount Crosby interchange, the Bremer River bridge and of course the Centenary Highway.

This is proof that under the Crisafulli LNP government Queensland is being dragged backwards—backwards by a government paralysed by its own failures. This LNP government continues to spend millions of dollars on blue-branded advertising and yet it is incapable of delivering something that has actually been committed to. I ask: where is the member for Scenic Rim, whose constituents sit in traffic on the Centenary? He is as quiet as a church mouse. I am proud to stand with all of my Labor colleagues in the western corridor as well as all of the people who have signed our petition to call out this flagrant disregard for our community and fight for better. Ipswich's population is growing at an exponential rate of more than 3.5 per cent annually and my community of Ipswich West deserves a safe and secure commute to and from their place of work. It is clear the LNP is all talk and no action. The money is there. The need is there. It is time to deliver.