

Speech By

Wendy Bourne

MEMBER FOR IPSWICH WEST

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ADJOURNMENT

Ipswich West Electorate, Infrastructure

Ms BOURNE (Ipswich West—ALP) (9.07 pm): Communities in Ipswich West are set to grow like never before. Ipswich City Council has recently released its draft Western Growth Corridor Structure Plan, which plans for up to 20,000 new homes across Rosewood, Walloon and Thagoona. These communities are small towns with a population of around 10,000 people, expected to grow to almost 59,000 by 2041. That is an enormous amount of growth, and these people will need more than just homes. They will need roads that can manage the traffic, health services they can rely on in an emergency and schools to teach their children. While council is planning for this growth, all we hear from the Crisafulli government is crickets. There are no new major infrastructure projects committed to support the Western Growth Corridor, whether that be schools, health services or road upgrades. The very communities being asked to shoulder this growth are getting little support.

We are still waiting for the government to commit to even a construction plan for the Amberley Interchange, which carries some 20,000 vehicles a day, despite the federal government putting $200 million on the table. We are still waiting for a fix to the intersection of Haigslea-Amberley Road and Schultzs Road at the Warrego Highway, where there have been 66 crashes in less than a decade. People have been seriously injured there and others have lost their lives. Last weekend, a young couple who use this intersection to take their children to school and are terrified each time they cross asked how many deaths, near misses and accidents have to happen before the government does something. In Walloon, we are still waiting for a plan to fix the roundabout outside Walloon State School. We are already seeing hundreds of homes built around it and, with thousands more planned, the problem is only going to get worse.

These roads are already under pressure and we cannot wait for 10,000, 20,000 or 40,000 people to arrive before we start fixing these problems. The government says it is planning for the future, yet wherever we look all we see are cuts, delays and services that cannot keep up. We see it every day on the news: our hospitals are falling behind, our child safety system is failing kids, our domestic and family violence supports are facing constant cuts, and our roads are getting even more congested. Yes, there is a common thread here: a government that is failing to plan ahead and leaving growing communities to pay the price. We cannot afford another Crisafulli credit rating downgrade that puts these critical projects further out of reach. That is why I am calling on the Crisafulli government to step up and commit to the infrastructure the Western Growth Corridor needs before the families arrive, not years after.