

## **Miles Doing What Matters: Ipswich seeing double as Labor backs river crossing**

- The Miles Labor Government will invest \$146 million towards a second river crossing in Ipswich, if elected this month.
- A business case will get underway, backed by \$4 million investment.
- \$142 million will be committed as the government's share of funding to construct a second river crossing.

Labor Candidate for Ipswich West Wendy Bourne has joined Ipswich MP Jen Howard and Transport Minister Bart Mellish to announce a major investment in the local road network, if elected this month.

A total of \$146 million in funding will go towards a second river crossing.

Of this, \$4 million will go towards a business case for a second river crossing in Ipswich.

This business case reflects the growing demand on local roads through Ipswich, as the region grows. It would build on preliminary planning work undertaken by Ipswich City Council, with support from the Department of Transport and Main Roads.

A second river crossing in Ipswich Central would improve connectivity, liveability and productivity for the city, while future-proofing access to key employment centres, service hubs and health facilities.

The remaining \$142 million will be invested towards the construction of the bridge, following the business case, planning and design works.

It's expected this investment would represent one third of the total construction costs however final costs for a preferred option will be confirmed once the business case is completed.

Already, the Miles Labor Government is delivering more than \$4.7 billion in upgrades across the Brisbane and Ipswich regions.

That includes a new, accessible train station at Bundamba, upgrades to the Centenary Motorway and Warrego Highway including the Bremer River Bridge and Mount Crosby Interchange, upgrades to the Cunningham Highway including the Amberley Interchange, as well as planning for a future rail connection between Ipswich and Springfield.

In contrast, the LNP's approach to transport cannot be clearer than when they last held Government, slashing \$1.6 billion from the transport budget.

That included cutting more than \$6 million from intersection upgrades on the Warrego Highway between Ipswich and Toowoomba, and cutting \$88 million from Warrego Highway duplication works.

### **Quotes attributable to Ipswich West Candidate, Wendy Bourne**

"This is a key priority for our community and it will support our city's growth well into the future.

"This commitment means we can get on with the detailed business case, knowing that the state Labor Government's contribution to construction is already locked in.

“The Miles Labor Government is delivering the infrastructure a growing city like Ipswich needs, from improved public transport to the strengthening of the Bremer River Bridge and important safety projects that will deliver long-term solutions to key Cunningham Highway intersections.”

“You can trust a Labor Government to deliver transport projects, not cut them.”

**Quotes attributable to the Member for Ipswich, Jen Howard**

“A second river crossing for Ipswich Central will change our city for future generations, improving congestion and access.

“A re-elected Miles Labor Government will deliver the infrastructure and transport upgrades my community needs, from 50c fares and improved bus services to key projects like a second river crossing.

“We know the LNP will cut projects like this, just like they did last time.”

**Quotes attributable to the Member for Bundamba, Lance McCallum**

“Our region is growing and this is the kind of investment that our community needs.

“A second river crossing will revitalise our centre, and provide the access and connectivity we will need in the future.

“I’m proud to be part of a government that is doing what matters.”

**Quotes attributable to the Minister for Transport Bart Mellish**

“This is a fantastic announcement for the Ipswich community.

“It will deliver better access to the Cunningham and Warrego Highways and provide a critical second crossing to ensure the safety and connectivity between north and south.

“With the preliminary business case now completed, this funding commitment from the Miles Labor Government means we can get on with the detailed business case, knowing that our share of the construction funding is already in place.”

**ENDS - Media Contact;** Jennifer Howard – 0438 916 111