



**Mayor Teresa Harding**

City of Ipswich  
Queensland, Australia

The Hon Michael Sukkar MP  
Minister for Housing and Assistant Treasurer  
Australian Government  
Email: [prebudgetsubs@treasury.gov.au](mailto:prebudgetsubs@treasury.gov.au)

24 August 2020

Dear Minister Sukkar,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this pre-Budget submission outlining how Ipswich City Council and the Australian Government can work in partnership to deliver outcomes for our growing city, through the 2020-21 Federal Budget.

Ipswich is the key to South East Queensland's future as a prosperous and lifestyle destination and a major hub for industry growth. And, this newly elected Council represents a fresh start for this city; built on a foundation of accountability and openness.

Our city's forecast growth rate is an extraordinary 4.6% per annum to 2036; unprecedented when compared with Queensland's expected 1.6% growth rate and encouraging in the context of Australia's forecast growth rate of less than 1%. By 2041, an additional 336,000 Australian's will call the city of Ipswich home. In addition, we are already starting to see greater diversity in the people who will call Ipswich home over the next 20 years and beyond. New business investment, particularly in the established and emerging growth areas of Springfield and Ripley will further attract young professionals and entrepreneurs to our city.

Ipswich is also proud to be a centre for advanced manufacturing, infrastructure, and transport and logistics more broadly. Our manufacturing sector generates \$2.3 billion in exports annually, and provides approximately 15% of the region's jobs. The services provided by local businesses, to customers across the state, range from research and development to supply and production, packaging and distribution and up-skilling local enterprise.

Ipswich is a hub for defence industry and advanced manufacturing, hosting Australia's largest operational airbase at Amberley and a number of global businesses, including Rheinmetall and Boeing. In 2017/18 Ipswich provided 17.5% of Queensland's defence employment, generating 22.5% of Queensland's total annual exports (\$707 million in value) and Council is committed to collaborating with the Australian Government to support the growth of the defence sector in Ipswich.

In order for our city to thrive, our communities need greater investment in infrastructure and services; and our local government must be trusted to act in accordance with our legal and moral obligations. I am delighted to share that Ipswich City Council is now leading the way in restoring trust by openly publishing detailed financial and budget performance data. On 1 July 2020 we achieved an Australian first, with the launch of our Transparency and Integrity Hub. Our Hub demonstrates this Council's commitment to ensuring that residents and stakeholders can be confident in our approach to delivering good governance. I invite you to explore the Hub here: <https://open.ipswich.qld.gov.au>

In addition to good governance, we need productive partnerships with other levels of government to unlock our city's potential and manage our growth. Over time, we will require more infrastructure to service the growing demand; and this requires all levels of government to collaborate and contribute to planning now.

Underinvestment and lack of planning over the past decade now requires an accelerated focus on planning, so that we can meet the growing demand for infrastructure and service our communities. This will require all levels of government to collaborate and contribute now.

An independent study by the Suburban Alliance<sup>1</sup> found that the Queensland Government has spent just \$17,700 per-capita on capital expenditure over the past eight years within the Ipswich (SA4) region. Comparatively, the state has invested \$33,600 per-capita on capital expenditure in inner-city Brisbane. That is just under double the capital investment made in Ipswich. Our population boom cannot be sustained through continued underinvestment across Ipswich and, if unchanged, will hinder economic resilience, social opportunity and the productivity of both our state and nation. In recognition of this looming emergency, we urgently seek your government's leadership and support for our city through your 2020-21 Budget.

Transport infrastructure is at the heart of a thriving and connected city and to advance a range of regionally significant infrastructure projects, Council has completed the initial business case stages. Strong evidence to support demand is crucial and in the case of Ipswich, the data speaks for itself. Existing infrastructure has reached its end of life and new infrastructure is required to avoid network failure and support our city's growth.

Through this Pre-Budget submission, I seek to draw the Australian Government's attention to three critical infrastructure projects; each of which have been the subject of a submission to Infrastructure Australia:

1. The Ipswich Central to Springfield Central Public Transport Corridor
2. Second CBD Bremer River Crossing; and
3. Cunningham Highway upgrades - Yamanto to Ebenezer Creek

The details of these projects are summarised in the Attachment.

On behalf of the city of Ipswich, we seek to secure Federal Government support and funding to enable these projects to move closer to a shovel-ready state. In current times this will not only provide crucial stimulus and jobs to support the recovery of our economy; but also presents an important moment for Ipswich to work in partnership with the Australian Government to progress the planning on projects of national significance during a time of unprecedented population growth for the region.

Thank you for your consideration of the significance of these projects. If you require further information, please contact Mr Dan Heenan Coordinator, Major Projects and Advocacy via email to [dan.heenan@ipswich.qld.gov.au](mailto:dan.heenan@ipswich.qld.gov.au) or on 0427 445 261.

Yours sincerely,



**Mayor Teresa Harding**

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<sup>1</sup> Refer: <https://suburbanalliance.com.au>

## ATTACHMENT

### 1. Ipswich Central to Springfield Central Public Transport Corridor (I2S)

#### \$2.5m to fund an Options Assessment

*Investing in a plan for a 25km public transport corridor that will connect Queensland's fastest growing communities between Ipswich and Springfield, with the rest of South East Queensland to secure future economic prosperity, liveability and safety for all of Ipswich.*

The proposed 25km I2S Public Transport Corridor will connect Ipswich Central with Springfield Central via the Ripley Town Centre and Redbank Plains. Importantly, I2S also delivers a strategic link for Queensland's fastest growing communities to Brisbane. It will provide current and future residents with greater access to economic opportunities and services and will also further strengthen the SEQ transport network. I2S leverages today's investment and future benefits of Cross River Rail.

In mid-2020 the I2S Stage 1: Strategic Assessment (led and funded by Ipswich City Council) was completed. The Strategic Assessment outlines a compelling need to shift away from private vehicle use and move towards a mass transit solution to support current and projected growth.

Through the Strategic Assessment, prepared by Pricewaterhouse Coopers in line with the Infrastructure Australia Assessment Framework, has identified the cost of the problem, and if we do nothing:

- The road network will fail by 2031
- Average travel times will increase by up to 81%
- Excessive congestion will cost the economy more than \$1 billion in productivity per annum.

The I2s Corridor will deliver real outcomes to residents:

- New businesses and employment opportunities
- Well connected, affordable and diverse housing supply
- Connectivity to essential services such as education and health
- Access to sporting, cultural and recreational opportunities across Ipswich, Ripley and Springfield.

The Options Analysis as the next phase of project planning will provide cost estimates and preliminary designs for a number of viable development options to deliver a mass transit solution. In order to complete this assessment, Council will need \$2.5 million in funding.

### 2. Second CBD Bremer River Crossing

#### \$2.5 million to fund a Detailed Business Case

*Investing in a plan to future-proof the connectivity of inner-city Ipswich through a second river crossing. The second river crossing will improve the flow of traffic through a strategic transport corridor, increase the economic capacity of Ipswich central and ensure that essential transport infrastructure keeps pace with the Ipswich CBD redevelopment project.*

The David Trumpy Bridge is the only river crossing in the city and it reached the end of its 50-year design life in 2015. Every day, 40,000 vehicles use the David Trumpy Bridge which will increase to 53,000 by 2036. One third of these vehicles are through-traffic, with no other way to cross the river, causing delays and safety issues. These impacts will worsen with additional demand as the city grows.

A second river crossing will transform how workers, residents, visitors and commercial road users move around Ipswich and provide network capacity needed to support population growth. This will provide an alternative cross-river route capable of diverting the forecast additional 13,300 non-essential vehicles from Ipswich Central.

The Norman St Bridge is catalytic infrastructure that will relieve congestion, promote economic revitalisation, and improve the resilience and lifespan of the State road network by providing an alternative option to the David Trumpy Bridge.

Council has funded and completed a strategic assessment and options assessment for this project and in August 2020, made stage 1 and 2 submissions to Infrastructure Australia under its assessment framework. The business cases present a compelling case that if we do nothing:

- \$34 million in productivity losses per year due to congestion and safety issues
- Network will fail in event of incident and flooding
- Continued bottleneck and significant delays
- Cannot deliver efficient and reliable public transport across inner-city Ipswich.

Norman St Bridge will also unlock transformational opportunities for Ipswich residents and visitors

- Unlock gridlock caused by over-capacity of the David Trumpy Bridge
- Prevent network failure with 1-in-100 flood immunity
- Create over \$34 million in productivity gains for the broader Ipswich community
- Leverage \$246 million Council investment in CBD redevelopment.

As part of this pre-Budget submission, Council is seeking \$2.5 million in funding for the Detailed Business Case for this project, which will ensure that proper planning for rolling out and integrating this vital transport infrastructure with the state road network can proceed.

### **3. Cunningham Highway – Yamanto to Ebenezer Creek**

#### **Enter into an agreement with the State to fund and deliver these critical upgrades**

*Investing in a plan to upgrade the Yamanto to Ebenezer Creek section of the Cunningham Highway. Importantly, it is a critical connector between the future Ebenezer Intermodal Terminal, Inland Rail, RAAF Base Amberley and 6000ha of industrial land in South East Queensland. This section is recognised as a “pinch-point” for interstate freight and urgently needs State support to leverage the Federal investment commitment.*

Upgrades to the Yamanto to Ebenezer Creek section of Cunningham Highway is a critical enabler of productivity and connectivity. Upgrades have been delayed for many years by the State Government and action is required now to alleviate congestion and improve safety. According to Infrastructure Australia, Yamanto to Ebenezer Creek is a pinch point preventing an efficient and safe road network for both residents and commercial road users in Ipswich.

The Yamanto to Ebenezer Creek section of Cunningham Highway is a major national freight route that also services RAAF Base Amberley, 6000ha of future industrial land and the potential Ebenezer Intermodal Terminal. This 4.75km section of highway is currently in a poor condition and in need of critical upgrades. Furthermore, the Amberley Interchange is currently operating over-capacity.

This section of highway is prone to congestion and crashes which causes \$45 million in productivity loss to the local economy per annum.

Upgrades to this section of highway will ensure that adequate access to RAAF Base Amberley is maintained, future industrial land can be unlocked and Ebenezer Intermodal delivered as Ipswich's population and demand for road capacity grows.

Upgrades to Cunningham Highway will bring benefits to Ipswich:

- Unlocks investment opportunities for private industry and generates local jobs
- Reduces congestion and improves road safety
- Caters for population growth

Council is aware that the Australian Government has committed \$170 million (80/20 split) funding towards an upgrade to the Yamanto to Ebenezer Creek section of the Cunningham Highway. The State Government's only recent steps in relation to this project is to withdraw the business case. Council is seeking support from the Australian Government to enter into urgent negotiations with the State to ensure the committed funding is used to deliver the required upgrades for the full extent of the Yamanto to Ebenezer Creek section of the Cunningham Highway as a matter of priority.