**Extract Council Minutes 21 March 2017 – Question to the Lord Mayor**

**Question 4**

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, thank you, Madam Chairman. My question is to the LORD MAYOR.

Over the past five years you’ve funded 471 local transport network projects in Council’s budget across the city, an average of about 18 per ward. Why have you only funded one project in Tennyson Ward during this five-year period? That is one in a total—in total over five years, despite my ongoing budget requests, motions to Council, petitions by residents, and their calls directly to you. Tennyson Ward residents pay rates, copping the highest increase in the city this year, and they deserve an answer about why you won’t support local road safety projects around Active Travel schools.

LORD MAYOR: Well, thanks very much, Madam Chairman. Madam Chairman, I’m always very cautious of Councillor JOHNSTON’s remarks on these things, because I’ve proven to myself over and over again that often these questions that are asked are simply not accurate in their form. I will make reference—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order, Madam Chairman.

LORD MAYOR: You can point of order all you like, but that’s the fact of the matter.

Chairman: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Madam Chairman, the LORD MAYOR’s statements are offensive. I’ve used the budget books and simply counted the schedules over the last five years, and his comments that I am somehow misleading this Chamber are outrageous.

Chairman: Councillor JOHNSTON, you don’t debate on a point of order. LORD MAYOR.

LORD MAYOR: So, Madam Chairman, the hub of Councillor JOHNSTON’s question, the latter part of it, makes reference to the issue around Active School Travel. She has been on this campaign to take away significant funding from a major road corridor in her ward, and to have those funds transferred to four schools.

Madam Chairman, it will not remove the need for that expenditure to take place on that major road corridor. It is a significant amount, we’re talking a seven-figure sum here in terms of the resurfacing work on that major corridor in her ward. Madam Chairman, Councillor JOHNSTON just thinks, ‘oh, you can just take $400,000 off that project and swing it over here, and magically there won’t be a need to do that $400,000 worth of work on the major corridor’, where, I might say, many of her constituents drive and where other people—because we don’t have boundaries in this city—people drive around the city at will, across ward boundaries, Madam Chairman, and the fact of the matter is that that road upgrade needs to be done in her ward.

So the point is, we’re not going to entertain what is at the core of that, a bit of a political game, to go to the schools and say, you know, t’hat dreadful LORD MAYOR, he won’t release funding to give to the projects around those schools, when all he’s got to do is just take those few hundred thousand dollars off that main road there and it will all be fixed’.

*Councillor interjecting.*

LORD MAYOR: Well, it does not work that way, Madam Chairman, and Councillor JOHNSTON knows she’s playing a little local game with this, and well, good on her, that’s what she can do as an Independent local Councillor, but I have a bigger responsibility to the city, Madam Chairman, and that responsibility is to make sure that we take a priority about the road upgrades that are needed.

But I will remind the Chamber of this—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order, Madam Chairman.

Chairman: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: I appreciate the LORD MAYOR is well into his question. I didn’t actually raise the road resurfacing project. My question was, why has only one local road project been funded in Tennyson Ward when 471 have been funded across the city in the same period?

Chairman: And Councillor JOHNSTON, you prefaced your question by quite a lot of information, and you know the rules in this place, that questions are meant to be asked succinctly. I allowed you to add a fair bit of information with your question, and allowed it to proceed. So you need to allow the LORD MAYOR to proceed as he is referencing items that were within your additional information that you added to your question.

LORD MAYOR.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order, Madam Chairman.

Chairman: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: My question says, over the past five years—

Chairman: Councillor JOHNSTON—

Councillor JOHNSTON: —you’ve funded 471 local—

Chairman: —resume your seat.

Councillor JOHNSTON: It doesn’t mention anything other than those projects, Madam Chairman.

Chairman: Councillor JOHNSTON!

Councillor JOHNSTON: So can you just point out to me where I’m referring to other projects

Chairman: For the third time—

Councillor JOHNSTON: —in my question?

Chairman: —Councillor JOHNSTON, I remind you of section 51 of the Meetings Local Law, when I speak, you resume your seat. Councillor JOHNSTON, I don’t uphold your point of order.

LORD MAYOR: Well, thanks very much, Madam Chairman. My memory is not so bad as to the fact that I did hear about Active School Travel within that question as well, and I know exactly what Councillor JOHNSTON is making reference to in that respect.

I do want to remind the Chamber of this, though—if you go back 10 years, we were investing as a city $35 million a year in road resurfacing. That went up to $60 million in the last term, and—

Councillor JOHNSTON: Point of order, Madam Chairman.

Chairman: Point of order, Councillor JOHNSTON.

Councillor JOHNSTON: My question does not refer to road resurfacing, it is—

Chairman: Councillor JOHNSTON—

Councillor JOHNSTON: —about local transport projects and—

Chairman: Councillor JOHNSTON!

Councillor JOHNSTON: —why only one has been funded in Tennyson Ward in five years.

Chairman: Councillor JOHNSTON, for the third time—It’s got nothing to do with resurfacing.

Chairman: Councillor JOHNSTON!

**Order under section 186A** o**f the *City of Brisbane Act 2010* that disorderly conduct by Councillor Nicole JOHNSTON be noted in the minutes**

Chairman: Councillor JOHNSTON, I have reminded you repeatedly week after week of section 51 of the Meetings Local Law. Today I have repeatedly called on you to bring yourself to order. You have failed to do so—

*Councillor interjecting.*

Chairman: Order! You have failed to do so. Under section 186 of the City of Brisbane Act, I require that your conduct in disobeying the direction of the Chair to cease speaking when I am speaking be noted in the Minutes.

LORD MAYOR: Yes, thanks very much, Madam Chairman. So, Madam Chairman, I will leave it at that, and again I am just always very reluctant on the surface of these questions these days, because I have taken them in good faith in the past, and I go away, Madam Chairman, and research the question only to find that it’s completely misrepresenting the situation. So I don’t these days, on Councillor JOHNSTON, partake any question at face value anymore because again it’s just proven to be not a wise course of action.