




Speech By
Mark Boothman

MEMBER FOR ALBERT

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ADJOURNMENT

Albert Electorate, Roads

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Albert—LNP) (7.01 pm): I rise tonight to speak on an issue of serious concern to many residents and emergency service providers throughout the northern Gold Coast and southern Logan City areas and, I am sure, other parts of Queensland. We are continuing to see considerable new development in the region as more people wish to call the northern Gold Coast and southern Logan City home. With this type of development we are placing more residents on smaller block sizes whilst still claiming it is low density.

This is substantiated with PDA guideline No. 5, neighbourhood planning and design, specifying that there is no minimum lot size in a PDA. As a consequence, we find ourselves with Legoland housing estates with narrow roadways. Adding to this issue is the occurrence of multiple family units residing at one address with limited room to park their vehicles. Therefore, they are forced to park their vehicles on the roadway, as parking a vehicle on a council verge is a fineable offence. The act states—

A driver must not stop on a bicycle path, footpath, shared path or dividing strip, or a nature strip adjacent to a length of road in a built-up area.

With reference to UDLA guideline No. 6, streets and movement networks, the width of a neighbourhood access street can vary between 7.5 metres and 5.5 metres. To provide a visual understanding, let us consider a VE Holden Commodore and a Toyota Hilux, both approximately 1.9 metres wide. If they were parked adjacent to one another in a local street, depending on how close they were parked to the gutter, it would make it incredibly difficult for other vehicles to traverse the carriageway. Imagine how difficult it would be for emergency vehicles, which can be up to 2.5 metres wide, to traverse these areas. It is nearly impossible for emergency vehicles to safely navigate these congested streets, potentially placing lives at risk. A fire truck requires a width of four metres for fire officers to access its appliances.

As more families are forced to live in one dwelling to combat escalating cost-of-living pressures, we are seeing more vehicles per residence. The days of one car per family are confined to history. With the cost of owning or renting a property, this situation of clogged streets will only be exacerbated over time, placing lives at risk and increasing the number of vehicles damaged due to sideswipes as vehicles pass along these thoroughfares. I ask the minister and his department to review this situation for the safety and security of our local communities.