




Speech By
Mark Boothman

MEMBER FOR THEODORE

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ADJOURNMENT

Theodore Electorate, John Muntz Bridge

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (7.24 pm): I again rise tonight to speak about an issue that is a major concern for residents who live in the Upper Coomera, Oxenford and Tambourine Mountain regions, an issue that has been going on since April 2017—four years and multiple floods. The riverbank upstream from the state controlled John Muntz Bridge has continued to wash away. We lost a further 10 to 12 metres of riverbank in the recent weather event. This issue has been going on for four years, but the ineptitude of both the department of main roads and the Gold Coast city council in their failure to fix this issue when it originally appeared will now cost taxpayers and ratepayers even more. I estimate that we have lost upwards of 60 metres deep of riverbank. This places serious constraints on the pony club and its fields, as they are continually shrinking. Residents continually fear that a flood event will wipe out the connection road again and leave them stranded. I wrote to the Premier in April 2017 to highlight the issue. In that letter I stated—

I'm writing to you in regard to the land upstream from the John Muntz Bridge (known as the Oxenford Pony Club) and the need to have a holistic approach to resolving the issue of extensive riverbank erosion.

I go on to say—

The Coomera River is trying to create a new river channel through the pony club fields. This has now caused the water flow under the John Muntz Bridge to alter, and it now impacts the structure at an angle, rather than flowing parallel, increasing resistance to the bridge piers.

As you would no doubt know, this is not ideal and simply armouring the bridge's approach on the Upper Coomera side without realigning the river back to its original course will do little to mitigate the problem.

Since April 2017 I have made countless representations to the minister, only to receive political spin. Only at the last state election the Labor government finally came kicking and screaming to agree to allocating funds to fix this necessary issue. If the issue had been first corrected back in 2017, it would have cost far less to the taxpayers and ratepayers of the Gold Coast. I want to thank Councillor Donna Gates for her work on this matter. Since she has taken over the area of Division 3 she has made it a priority to get this done. The LNP at every election since 2017 has made it a priority to fix this riverbank to ensure the safety and the connection of the Tamborine Oxenford Road and the John Muntz Bridge. This issue needs to be fixed during this dry season. We can no longer wait for this issue to be resolved because we are losing more and more riverbank during every single flood event.