




Speech By
Mark Boothman

MEMBER FOR THEODORE

Record of Proceedings, 13 May 2021

ADJOURNMENT

Theodore Electorate, Coomera Connector

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (6.23 pm): Go the Titans! When it comes down to it, we will end up pinching all of your good players anyway. That is all right and there is nothing wrong with that!

On 25 October 2019 the Premier and the Minister for Main Roads announced that community consultation on the Coomera Connector project would be undertaken in late 2019. The community consultation summary document states—

The focus for the community consultation was to listen to community input to help ensure the project takes the local context into account.

Many residents across the northern Gold Coast participated in this consultation in good faith that their ideas and concerns were going to be listened to. Whilst many residents understand that this project is needed to reduce congestion on local roads, they feel that there are variable ways to reduce the impact of this road on the local communities and local roads. In an answer to a question on notice I asked the minister on 3 December last year, it was clear that the department had no intention of building an interchange at Hope Island Road. The excuse given was that the department would have to purchase 100 houses. It appears that Main Roads had no intention to place an interchange there but wanted to dump the traffic onto Helensvale Road.

Let me put this in perspective. Gold Coast City Council officers forecast that this will double the 5,000 to 6,000 vehicle movements per day on this already congested road. Helensvale State High School, one of the largest schools on the Gold Coast, is located on Helensvale Road—a road that, for the most part, is a single bidirectional carriageway. It simply does not have the capacity to take the extra traffic without major upgrades. A report on the *Gold Coast Bulletin* website on 6 May found further evidence that the community consultation was nothing more than a sham. A senior former member of the Coomera Connector consultation group Mark Hunter wrote to the Minister for Main Roads accusing his department of being unethical and manipulative, and I table his letter for the information of the House.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 22 April 2021, from Shores Representative, Community Reference Group Coomera Connector, Mr Max Hunter, to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Hon. Mark Bailey, regarding the Coomera Connector CRG committee [651](#).

Residents want their voices heard and they are seeking genuine consultation to minimise the impact of this new road. They are seeking assurances to implement technologies to minimise the impact of this road and they want world's best practices investigated. This is a vital piece of infrastructure that is desperately needed for residents on the eastern side of the M1 motorway. They want the government to work with them properly to get this project up and running as soon as possible whilst also listening to their concerns and using best practices to ensure that this road will have a minimal impact on them and their lives.