



Speech by

Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

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ROAD SAFETY, SCHOOLS

Mr BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (9.27 pm): I rise this evening to address two key transport issues in my electorate. Members would note my keen interest in road safety around schools, so it would come as no surprise that I speak about this tonight.

The issue of road safety has been prevalent around Meridan State College. I point out that the road networks that surround the school are indeed council roads and not state roads, but I fundamentally believe that if a state government plonks a school in the middle of a residential subdivision then the state bears a certain level of responsibility to ensure that the children of that school can arrive at and depart safely from school.

Meridan State College has sustained substantial growth in the past two years and the department has failed to properly plan for this growth in terms of car parking, drop-off zones and the general flow of local vehicle and pedestrian traffic. It came to a point where a local parent organised a community rally for the governmental council to act and install a safe passageway for children to cross a busy road. The application by developer AV Jennings has been held up in council bureaucracy for many years. They have been desperately wanting to help, but this bureaucracy held them back.

Late last year I contacted the developer, AV Jennings, in an attempt to intervene and improve the situation as I believed there was still potential for an agreement to be forged. I am happy to inform the House that the developer, AV Jennings, is now funding two crossing supervisors to allow students to safely travel to school. These supervisors will enable students to safely walk along the footpath on Parklands Boulevard, which crosses to the other side of the road at the Ivadale Boulevard roundabout. The developer, AV Jennings, should be commended for its act of goodwill and community spirit. Members would think that a state that plonks a school in the middle of a residential subdivision would install a pedestrian crossing and pay for the traffic supervisors, but we have to rely on a third-party independent developer in this situation to pay for traffic supervisors so that the children who attend the school can cross the road safely to school.

A similar issue regularly occurs at Kawana Waters State College. Nicklin Way, which is the main arterial road connecting motorists from Caloundra to Maroochydore, borders the college and students are crossing this road at will in the morning and afternoon as there is no safe passage to the other side. There are no traffic lights or a pedestrian crossing at which to cross. The P&C have raised these concerns with the CoastConnect project team as the project was being revised and consultation sought, but no response has been given by this government. In the latest revised concept plan published by the department of transport, the intersection of Thunderbird Drive and Nicklin Way has been designated as a possibility for future traffic lights. Action needs to be taken now. We cannot sit around and wait for a child to be hurt trying to get to school. Action needs to be taken now.