



Speech by

Michael Crandon

MEMBER FOR COOMERA

Hansard Thursday, 11 February 2010

COOMERA ELECTORATE

Mr CRANDON (Coomera—LNP) (10.49 pm): I was honoured recently to attend my very first Australia Day citizenship ceremony held in the Coomera electorate and hosted by the Helensvale Lions Club on Australia Day. I was especially honoured to welcome those who were taking the step to become an Australian citizen and calling the Gold Coast home—most of whom, I am proud to say, reside in the Coomera electorate. Indeed, the feedback I got was that there were about 65 people at that particular citizenship ceremony, which rivalled the main citizenship ceremony held at the council chambers. There were around 70 at that ceremony. So the numbers were very close. Of those 65, I am told that 63 lived in the Coomera electorate. One can imagine the pride that I have in welcoming all of those people.

This brings me to one of the issues that we are struggling with in the Coomera electorate—and that is infrastructure. The Coomera Town Centre is well and truly advanced now, and we can expect to see construction in the next 18 months to two years. But this is where the problems start. As the Coomera Town Centre is being built, we will be looking down the throat of massive amounts of material being brought in by trucks and so forth. We already have a major problem at exit 54, which is the main exit for the Coomera Town Centre.

The problem is that there is a mismatch between the existing capacity of the road system from exit 54 to the Coomera Town Centre and surrounding area and what is needed even at this early stage over the next 18 months to two years. As far as Main Roads is concerned, it is not looking at doing anything for probably the next three to five years. That is where the mismatch is. I call on the Minister for Main Roads to have a serious look at what we can do to bring things forward in relation to exit 54. We really need to do something most urgently in that regard.

Also, because Coomera Railway Station is the fifth station along the line from the Gold Coast, by the time the trains get to Coomera they are already overcrowded. In fact, it is the most overcrowded train line on the whole network. I call on the Minister for Transport to also work with us on the Gold Coast to boost the number of trains on that line so that we can get back to some reasonable level and reduce the overcrowding.