




Speech By
Shane King

MEMBER FOR KALLANGUR

Record of Proceedings, 21 May 2015

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Moreton Bay Rail Link, Dohles Rocks Road Closure

 **Mr KING** (Kallangur—ALP) (3.31 pm): It gives me great pleasure to rise to speak today about a recent successful outcome for local residents and businesses in my electorate of Kallangur. I had not even properly moved into the Kallangur electorate office when I was asked by local residents and businesses to assist in the matter of the potential closure of Dohles Rocks Road. The potential closure of this major road through my electorate for six months was met with a great deal of distress by locals. The Moreton Bay Rail Link project is a great Labor initiative but requires a partial upgrade of Dohles Rocks Road and the contractor had applied to completely close this road for a six-month period to expedite the work. The Moreton Bay Regional Council had initially approved this proposal to progress to a consultation phase. Following a social media campaign, we were inundated with contact from community members, schools and local businesses who found this closure unacceptable. Investigations showed that several local businesses could have potentially had to close their doors as they rely on mostly passing traffic and ease of access to their premises. These businesses employ over 50 people in my community. That is 50 families in my electorate. In addition to this devastation, it became clear that two local schools could have had up to 14,000 extra vehicles passing them daily.

Both of these issues made the request for closure for a minimum of six months unacceptable to my community and me. I am happy to report that, due to our quick action and help from the Deputy Premier, the Hon. Jackie Trad, we were able to move swiftly to progress the consultation process, reassure our community and ultimately keep the road open with the upgrade occurring, as originally intended, under traffic flow conditions. The Department of Transport and Main Roads project team was very professional to work with. I am happy to report that the businesses involved—Acanthus Marble and Granite, Goodyear Autocare, The Landscaping Yard, Murrumba Auto Care, Elite Soil Testing and Eternal Signs—as well as the local schools were most appreciative of our quick action. I want to thank the Deputy Premier and her team for their swift and decisive assistance and the local residents and businesses, in particular the group that spearheaded the social media and organising campaign, the No Closing Dohles Rocks Rd team. Well done to the Kallangur Business Association for its efforts. It has been a pleasure to help in resolving this matter quickly and ensure that we are all able to take advantage of the great benefits that will flow from the new Moreton Bay Rail Link project.