




Speech By
Aaron Harper

MEMBER FOR THURINGOWA

Record of Proceedings, 3 November 2016

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Thuringowa Electorate, Roadworks

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (2.33 pm): I am proud to inform the House that Thuringowa has received much needed roadwork upgrades, some of which have been completed in the Townsville region. In my electorate of Thuringowa I know that my constituents are very happy with the \$7.81 million investment by our government into the Hervey Range Road upgrade that is now complete between Lynam Road and Alice River. This upgrade, including centre lane markings and widening, will make our roads safer. I know this, having personally attended many road accidents on this particular stretch of road in my 25 years as a paramedic in my former role. Wide centre line treatments have been shown to reduce head-on collisions, so this will make a big difference to the safety of all road users. I also heard these concerns directly from my constituents, both as a candidate and as the new member for Thuringowa in 2015.

To address their concerns I went about being a good hardworking local member, so I got a petition going in the Alice River area and gained direct support to seek funding for the road upgrade. I have also worked with the Townsville Bike User Group who use this area for training, and together with locals we tabled a petition in October last year. I made further representations to the Minister for Main Roads and Road Safety. I must acknowledge the minister, who also made this project come forward as part of the accelerated capital works program our Premier initiated to help tackle the unemployment issues our region inherited from the former Newman LNP government and the mining downturn. I am proud to deliver this project and make safer roads for Thuringowa.

I would like to thank the main roads minister for his announcement yesterday regarding the tendering process for the \$30 million stage 1 duplication of Riverway Drive. Again I am working hard for locals, 24,000 of whom use this section of road. I will deliver this for Thuringowa without selling assets, as the former member told to locals—in fact, he put a billboard up saying 'delivered'—but there was a caveat that we had to sell our port. I will not be selling assets. I have real funding. I am working hard for my electorate and we will deliver Riverway Drive. It is a fantastic asset for our area.

The locals in Thuringowa are not fools. They know when they are being told an untruth, so they spoke up loudly at the 2015 state election and they allowed me to get real funding through the State Infrastructure Fund, and I thank the Deputy Premier. This upgrade will finally give some relief to the thousands of people who use the area in Kelso, Condon and Rasmussen. A detailed design is nearly complete, and I encourage all local suppliers to bid on works with QTender. I want locals on this job. The first stage of that tender process gives companies the opportunity to show their previous experience in areas such as maximising local procurement and delivering similar projects. I look forward to seeing this road started and completed in this term of government.