




Speech By
Michael Crandon

MEMBER FOR COOMERA

Record of Proceedings, 14 February 2017

ADJOURNMENT

Coomera Electorate

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (6.45 pm): There are many challenges for all of us in Queensland, but there are even more challenges in the state seat of Coomera as we see the new school year commence. I have massive growth in the middle of the electorate in the Pimpama area. I have two new schools there that are already over capacity when it comes to the parking facilities and bus facilities. Alarming, I have been told by the bus service that there is no review being provided in relation to the bus services until August this year.

This is in an area where I have seen 300 new students go into the new high school. It now has 1,400 students. It is expected to have 2,000 students by 2019. The primary school is only at half its capacity and it is already logjammed as far as its car park is concerned and certainly logjammed as far as buses are concerned. I see buses having to go up and over the centre concrete strips on the road out the front of the school to get around the cars because the cars cannot get into the car park. We need to desperately do something for these schools. Remember that the school is only half full. In the next two years it will be full. It will have 780 students. The car park is full now.

Those things have to be done. I call on the new transport minister, Education Queensland and the education minister to work with me to try to resolve these issues for those schools. It really is a desperate situation.

Another issue that we had in the electorate over the Christmas period and certainly before relates to the sugarcane industry. It was only able to get less than 50 per cent of the sugar crop off due to some breakdowns at the mill. Of course, we had that devastating white spot disease that has wiped out, for all intents and purposes, the prawn industry in the northern Gold Coast. Five of the six farms have been infected. Their crops have been totally destroyed.

We have to work with these farmers to try to find a way forward. One of the ways forward is at our fingertips. That is the South East Queensland Regional Plan. We are not at the end of the line as far as what we are doing with the South East Queensland Regional Plan is concerned. I call on the Deputy Premier to make sure that she gives due consideration to the sugarcane farmers and prawn farmers when it comes to them making requests for changes of use to the area known as canelands in the electorate. That represents about two-thirds of the current Coomera electorate. There are many challenges ahead of us.

(Time expired)