




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR COOMERA

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Northern Gold Coast

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (2.49 pm): It does not matter which way you look at it, the northern Gold Coast is experiencing massive growth. Since I came into office eight years and two days ago, the population has grown exponentially. If we look at the number for voters, for example, adding together the three electorates of Albert, Coomera and Gaven, back in 2009, there were under 88,000 voters.

Currently, as at 27 February, the latest figures according to the ECQ website were more than 122,000 voters—almost 35,000 additional voters on the northern Gold Coast. That has been confirmed by the number of new schools in a 10-kilometre stretch of the M1. Between 2009 and 2015 we saw seven new schools in that six-year period. Some of those schools are already overpopulated. They are bursting at the seams. We have two new schools coming online—a private and a public school—in the next couple of years so by 2019 we will see nine new schools in 10 years. Twenty-eight per cent of our population is under 15 years of age. Compare that with the rest of the Gold Coast at 18 per cent under 15 years of age. We have a real need for a whole bunch of infrastructure—things like sports parks and other types of entertainment for young people. We have the Coomera Town Centre now being built, having recently opened exit 54.

One of the things that we are lacking—and it does not matter which way you look at it or which statistics you look at—is police numbers on a per head population basis. For example, I have looked at the northern Gold Coast versus further down into the Gold Coast. In the northern Gold Coast there is one police officer for every 2,400 residents. When you go down further into the Gold Coast, into the Surfers Paradise area, there is one police officer for every 320 residents.

If we go further afield to the southern region of Ipswich, there is one police officer for every 612 people versus one police officer for 2,400 in the northern Gold Coast. We have seen some infrastructure coming into place with seven new schools in six years and more schools to come, but one thing we have not seen is a massive growth in the number of police. We need an additional 50 police officers in the northern Gold Coast to take care of that massive population growth. We need two new police stations in the northern Gold Coast between Beenleigh and Coomera.