



Speech By
Brent Mickelberg

MEMBER FOR BUDERIM

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Scholars Drive, Sippy Downs

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (2.26 pm): I rise today to express my concern that this Labor government does not genuinely prioritise the road safety of Queenslanders who live outside Labor electorates. I speak of those who live in suburbs choking with congestion like Sippy Downs, where in past years Labor have built one of the Sunshine Coast's biggest schools at the end of a cul-de-sac. Last week I stood beside Sunshine Coast division 6 Councillor Christian Dickson when he announced council's investment of \$200,000 to upgrade Scholars Drive. It is right that councils should upgrade their own road. However, even though this was a positive announcement, much more investment is needed.

Here is the kicker: the Labor state government made the decision that caused the problem in the first place. They built a large school in a small, dead-end street and they refused to take responsibility. Labor refused to match my election commitment of a million dollars to solve the problem that they created. Labor refused to listen to those residents who have signed my petition who simply want to get their children home safely, make it to work on time so they can keep their job and cut down on the stresses that make us all question ourselves and how we manage. Frankly, I cannot help but shake my head in disbelief.

Scholars Drive is a disaster waiting to happen. Families tell me that at pick-up and drop-off time what should be a 10-minute round trip takes on average 45 minutes and it is one where stress and frustration is palpable. It is a car ride that most children would choose to avoid at the end of a busy day. Council's \$200,000 is a good start, but it is clear that the scale of improvements required will exceed this amount. The upgrade is not only costly but also urgent. What if a child is injured and emergency services cannot reach them? This is not a place for politics. This is a great opportunity to show the people of Sippy Downs and, indeed, the rest of Queensland that politics can be put aside when the safety of communities is at stake.

This is a positive message to send to tired and disengaged constituents that different levels of government can put people first and politics last. As the Premier said on 15 May this year, 'I always say that government works best when all levels of government work together.' I agree. She should show the people of Sippy Downs that her words are more than just hollow platitudes. She should work with the Sunshine Coast Council to fix the problem that is Scholars Drive. If she does, I will be the first to congratulate her.

The community of Sippy Downs does not care who pays for road safety as long as vital improvements are made. Safety is paramount. A total of 238 residents have signed my petition calling on the Labor government to contribute funds for an upgrade of Scholars Drive. I table that petition.

Tabled paper: Nonconforming petition regarding the upgrade to Scholars Drive, Sippy Downs [[1683](#)].

If the LNP were able to identify the need and commit the funds at the last election to upgrade a number of local roads that are crippled with congestion and holding communities back, Labor must do so also. I will not stop until Scholars Drive is fixed.