



Speech By  
**Mark Boothman**


**MEMBER FOR THEODORE**

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Record of Proceedings, 8 March 2018

## **PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

### **Theodore Electorate**

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (2.54 pm): I rise to speak about a number of concerns that residents in my electorate have expressed to me. The first concern is the lack of a traffic crossing guard at the rear of Highland Reserve State School. This is a saga that started in 2016, not long after the road was first opened. The issue is exacerbated as more houses are built in the local area thus placing more vehicles on this road. As residents are only allowed to park on the opposite side of the road to the school and the main population of the school is on the opposite side of Highland Way, it forces parents with students and sometimes students by themselves to make a quick dash across Highland Way. As many parents have said to me, 'What is the price of a child's life?' I ask the new Minister for Transport to look into this matter and give us a safe area for our children to cross.

The traffic situation on the M1 motorway continues to worsen as more and more vehicles use this roadway every day. Every time we have an accident on the M1 the road network in the northern Gold Coast goes into meltdown. Therefore, an alternative roadway has to be built to remove local traffic away from the motorway.

Recently the government changed the name of the Intra-Regional Transport Corridor to the Coomera Connector. Any design works for this new road corridor must include substantial sound barriers to reduce the impact on local residents. Furthermore, these sound barriers should be capped along sections of the new proposed roadway and current railway line, especially where these transport links traverse closely to residential houses.

This issue has been highlighted with residents complaining about the inadequate sound walls recently installed by Queensland Rail on the new second line. Residents feel that these sound barriers are too low and do not absorb anywhere near the sound that the previous sound barriers absorbed. As one resident stated, with the old sound barriers he could not see the trains pass by, yet with the new sound barriers he can see the top of the carriages.

This week I placed a question on notice to the minister about this matter. I ask the minister to instruct his department to properly review the new rail line sound barriers to see what alterations can be made to reduce this impact. Any design works on the new Coomera Connector must include suitable sound barriers to ensure residents are not adversely impacted by this future road which has to be built to relieve the massive traffic congestion we have in the northern Gold Coast.