




Speech By
Mark Boothman

MEMBER FOR THEODORE

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ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (6.30 pm): Firstly, I would like to congratulate all of the newly elected members of the parliament. It certainly is a great honour to represent our peers in this place. I would like to congratulate the member for Mulgrave on his high election to Speaker of the House. I also congratulate the Deputy Speaker on his election.

It has certainly been a great honour to serve the residents of the Albert electorate over the past five years. As we all know, the Albert electorate has entered the history books once again. The Albert electorate was first created in 1880. It was dissolved in the 1950 redistribution and was reincarnated in 1960. As we know, it was reassigned to the history books last year, in 2017. I must say I have always thought Albert a wonderful, personal name for our local area. The Albert River flows through the northern Gold Coast and separates the northern Gold Coast and Logan City regions. A lot of residents were a bit upset that they lost their name.

Mr Krause interjected.

Mr BOOTHMAN: I take the interjection from the member for Scenic Rim.

Mr Crandon: The old Albert shire as well.

Mr BOOTHMAN: Yes, also the old Albert shire. A lot of residents were a little bit dismayed at losing that name and that bit of history. They have always identified as living in the Albert region. As the member for Coomera rightly said, we used to have the Albert shire council in the region.

Mr Crisafulli: Well led.

Mr BOOTHMAN: I take that interjection. A member of this chamber was the mayor of that shire.

Mr Krause: The last mayor.

Mr BOOTHMAN: He was the last mayor of that shire. The new electorate was renamed Theodore after a former premier of Queensland. It encompasses about one-third of the old Albert electorate. Most of the Albert electorate was divided between Coomera, Macalister and Logan, leaving the Theodore electorate to take in the small section of the southern boundaries. The new Theodore electorate encompasses parts of Upper Coomera, Oxenford and Maudsland. It also services Guanaba, little parts of Coomera, parts of Helensvale, Wongawallan, Clagiraba and Pacific Pines with a tiny little corner of Mount Nathan in the very southern part.

Mr Krause interjected.

Mr BOOTHMAN: Unfortunately, the fruit shop is not in my electorate. It is a great honour to be elected by the people of Theodore to represent their views and opinions on matters that affect them in their daily lives. I have to thank the wonderful volunteers who gave up so much of their time during the 2017 campaign, whether they were doing letterbox drops, helping me to doorknock in the area or participate in my community roadsides, which I religiously do. Even to this day I try to get out in the electorate every single afternoon to listen to the people's concerns and then voice their opinions in this place or write letters to the ministers or council about issues concerning them.

We have a wonderful team in the LNP in the Theodore electorate; we have a very strong team. We also have a team of wonderful community leaders who came out to support me during the election campaign. I am forever in their debt for the amount of time they put in to assist the campaign and, most importantly, for the sacrifice of family time to fight for the principles of the Liberal National Party.

I have to also thank my family. My father, Peter, was my campaign manager. Every single day he enjoyed—and some people would find it strange—going down to the pre-poll and setting up at 5 am and making sure he got a good spot. He loved the banter with the other candidates and campaign teams. I must say that overall we got on very well with each other. Sometimes I even bought the Labor members a coffee or two. We got on quite well—

Mr Krause: That is compassionate conservatism.

Mr BOOTHMAN: That is compassionate conservatism. I take that interjection from the member for Scenic Rim. Overall, we got on very well. It was testament to my campaign team, the Labor campaign team and the One Nation campaign team. We also seemed to sync up very nicely.

I thank my mother, Marg, who certainly finds it a bit of a struggle these days. She was determined to also participate in the pre-polls when she could. I must say that you cannot say no to my mother. I thank my brother, Paul. He may be older than me, but he looks like a younger version of me these days. I have to say thank you for all the effort he put into the campaign. Like my father, he would not give up and he was always down there helping out and setting up booths.

I say thanks to my wife, Kanako; my daughters, Eleanor and Maya; and my son, Samuel. Whilst I am seldom home these days—and I am sure that as members of parliament we are all subjected to this—our lives are to serve the community and, unfortunately, our families do seem to suffer because of that. I know my son, Samuel, likes to call my father 'Father', which can be a little bit embarrassing sometimes, especially when I am at the school. He says, 'Daddy's here,' and I say, 'No, I'm Daddy, thank you very much.' It is a personal sacrifice that we as members of parliament make.

I would like to thank my office staff members. Sheree Allaway has been on my staff from day one. Next year she will have been in my office for six years.

Mr Butcher interjected.

Mr BOOTHMAN: All I can say is I must be a good boss. My other two staff are Robert and Daniel. They are very enthusiastic individuals who also have a great passion for serving the community, sorting things out and helping people in need.

It would be remiss of me not to thank the LNP for the last state election. Tim Nicholls, the leader, fought a good campaign. Whilst it may not have been the result we were hoping for, he ran an exceptionally good campaign and he should be very proud of that. To our new leader, Deb Frecklington: I am sure we are going to have better times ahead with you.

Whilst the community of Theodore lost quite a few suburbs to the north and gained some suburbs to the south, we have great rural fire brigades in the electorate of Theodore: the Coomera Valley Rural Fire Brigade and the Guanaba Rural Fire Brigade. They recently conducted controlled burns and fire callouts. Recently the Coomera Valley and Guanaba fire brigades went out to Esk to help their brothers in the rural regions, and that is a testament to the dedication of these rural firefighters.

With the encroachment of urban fire brigades into the region—obviously there is population growth on the northern Gold Coast—there is a fear that we will start to amalgamate rural fire brigades, and that is the worst thing we can do. We do not want to lose the expertise of these wonderful volunteers who have had years and years of experience. We do not want to lose them, because the Gold Coast region is a fantastic region. We can call on these firefighters if they are needed elsewhere throughout the state, but we need these rural fire brigades to remain strong on the Gold Coast.

We have great Lions Clubs in the Theodore electorate. The Helensvale Lions Club has been around for many, many years. The Upper Coomera Lions Club has only just formed, and I want to give a big shout-out to Carey Dobson for all his hard work in setting up that club. We also have the Coomera Valley Rotary Club, which is synonymous with barbecues at Bunnings and the Nucrush open day. They give up a lot of their time to serve the community in much the same way as the Lions.

I also have to give a big shout-out to the Coomera CWA ladies. They are truly the heart and soul of my region. They performed 51,000 hours of community service last year, and that is phenomenal. It just shows you how passionate they are. Recently they have made up women's toiletries to help remote communities, and they make Care Bears for kids who are sick in hospital. I know that my wife does that on a regular basis. Some nights when I come home there she is, sewing away. It is something that the CWA ladies are truly passionate about.

As I continue to get out into my community, whether it is doorknocking or my regular afternoon roadsides, residents continue to express their frustration at the lack of infrastructure on the northern Gold Coast to deal with population growth. We are one of the fastest growing regions in Queensland.

Mr Bailey: Cut, sack and sell!

Mr BOOTHMAN: It is interesting that the member for Miller has to jump into the debate on the matter. A Labor government was first elected from 1989 to 1996. Then we had a little gap with a National Party government, and then we went back to Labor from 1998 to 2012. Then we had another little gap, and now it is Labor again from 2015 to 2018. If you think about it, for 25 out of the past 30 years there has been a Labor government.

Let's not forget Labor's asset fire sale over those years: in 2006 Sun Retail was sold by Labor for \$1.2 billion; in 2007 Sun Gas was sold by Labor for \$75 million; in 2007 PowerDirect was sold by Labor for \$1.2 billion; Golden Casket was sold by Labor for \$530 million; gas assets were sold by Labor for \$268 million; wind energy assets were sold by Labor for \$460 million; Brisbane Airport was sold by Labor for \$289 million; in 2008 the Cairns and Mackay airports were sold by Labor; when the Premier was a member of the cabinet she participated in the sale of the Forestry Plantations for \$600 million in 2010; in 2010 the Port of Brisbane was sold for \$2.1 billion; and in 2010 QR National was sold for \$4 billion.

Mr Krause: It was not for sale, I thought.

Mr BOOTHMAN: I take that interjection. What was the—

Mr Krause: Rachel Nolan, Queensland Rail.

Mr BOOTHMAN: Yes, 'Rachel the Rail Wrecker', that's it. In 2011 Abbot Point was sold for \$1.8 billion.

An opposition member: Who was the transport minister then?

Mr BOOTHMAN: Yes, who was the transport minister then? I think it was the member for Inala. Queensland Motorways was sold for \$3 billion. That is an interesting little treasure trove.

As many of my residents ask, 'What did we get from all of those sales?' We got debt and deficit. We also got dams without pipes, pipes without dams. We had a payroll system that did not pay our nurses. The funny thing about it is that it was the LNP who started the process to get exit 54 fixed. I remember that the member for Coomera and I met with the federal minister. The member for Coomera was working on a task to build a partnership between Westfield, the federal government and the state.

One of the biggest problems in the northern Gold Coast is the M1 motorway. Every time we have an accident on the M1 motorway it reminds me of the 2017 election campaign. The Premier was on a bus coming down the M1 motorway and she was stuck in a traffic jam because there was an accident on the M1 motorway. Also, because of what was happening on the M1 motorway that day, it was almost impossible for me to traverse my electorate. If there is an accident on the M1 all of my local roads go into meltdown because people continuously have to use the service roads, and the service roads are the lifeblood of the Theodore electorate. Let's talk about what the—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Members, there is a bit of banter going on across the chamber. I remind members that several of you have warnings under the standing orders. They are: the member for Mudgeeraba, the member for Theodore, the member for Maryborough, the member for Chatsworth, the member for Gregory, the member for Everton and the member for Toowoomba South.

Mr BOOTHMAN: What did the member for Miller do for my electorate in recent times? Exit 57. We were looking at this cleared area. We were looking at the trees being removed and we were sitting there thinking to ourselves, 'We're going to get our slip-road! These are exciting times! We're going to get our slip-road!' I sent an email off to the department to find out what was going on.

Mr Krause: Did you send it to mangocube?

Mr BOOTHMAN: I did not send it to mangocube. It probably would have been answered sooner.

The funny thing is, they told us they are going to build solar panels. We had 1,416 residents express their dismay in a petition, thinking that this minister, the member for Miller, is a very naughty boy. They were absolutely dismayed that a minister could be so silly and ridiculous as to put solar panels where we need a slip lane.

We need a direct access road to the M1 northbound. We need a direct access for the local trucks and local quarry vehicles that use that road every day. It is their main thoroughfare. They have no choice; they have to use that road. They are gazetted to use that road. One of the quarry truck drivers said to me, 'You can't be serious. How could somebody be that obtuse, that stupid, as to put solar

panels where we need a slip lane?' Just think of the pollution from all of those cars—all of the carbon monoxide pouring out of those vehicles—sitting at the traffic lights. If you had a slip lane, those cars could slip up the side and go straight to the M1 northbound. We are asking for a bit of common sense, but obviously that is in short supply.

There are many other issues in the electorate about which I have been writing to the minister. Unfortunately, we get rather disconcerting replies blaming the LNP for everything, in the same way he blames the federal government. It is like they had a meeting on the Gold Coast with the deputy mayor and decided, 'Let's blame the federal government for everything.'

(Time expired)