




Speech By
Aaron Harper

MEMBER FOR THURINGOWA

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Thuringowa Electorate, Riverway Drive

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (2.47 pm): It has been a little while since we have been able to get up in this House and talk about good things happening in our electorates. I will get to Riverway Drive very shortly. I was on the radio this morning with well-known Pricey on Triple M talking about the good things we are doing whilst in government, as opposed to the member for Broadwater, who had an unusual outburst yesterday saying that I was the least popular member. I do not know where that came from.

I was having my regular chat with Pricey this morning. I was wishing my daughter a happy birthday today. She is 12. She said to me a couple of years ago in 2015, 'Dad, can you ask the Premier to bring parliament to Townsville?' Guess what? I said to Pricey, 'We've delivered.' Parliament is coming to Townsville, and I will have every one of you on a coach going up and down Riverway Drive seeing what real infrastructure and the good delivery of infrastructure does for our city.

A couple of months ago the Premier was up in Townsville for the official cutting of the ribbon on Riverway Drive. There were community members there; people are very excited. I have a problem that is too good—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr HARPER: I do. It is a good problem to have. I have three developers who want to invest new infrastructure in shopping centres on Riverway Drive. Guess what? We turned the sod on Riverway Plaza. Geon is running the project, a new \$36 million shopping development. I have to say that Riverway Drive has become a catalyst for investment, because 200 to 300 local workers through Phoenix Constructions—you know the company—have been appointed to build that and we have others waiting in the wings. I think this is a good show of investment—'Build it and they will come.' Along Riverway Drive we have a new police facility opening very shortly.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr HARPER: Yes. We have a new rural fire station, the Round Mountain Rural Fire Brigade. I think that is great. If you drive along Riverway Drive right now you will see Works for Queensland projects happening. They are building new boardwalks and pathways. This is about increasing civic pride, but I love the fact that we have local businesses coming along to invest in our own backyard that will deliver millions of dollars worth of investment and create jobs in Thuringowa. I cannot wait to see you all up in Townsville. You can all go and have a good look at the new stadium as well.