




Speech By
Mark Boothman

MEMBER FOR THEODORE

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Theodore Electorate, Urban Development

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (2.18 pm): I rise today to speak about the wonderful electorate of Theodore and express the opinions of many residents in the western regions of the electorate. The rural landscapes of Maudsland, Guanaba, Clagiraba and Wongawallan are nestled in the foothills of Tamborine Mountain, one of the emerald gems in the Gold Coast hinterland and a major attraction for both domestic and international tourists.

During the regular community roadsides that I hold in this area, multiple residents expressed their views on development and urban encroachment. Therefore, it is appropriate to give residents their say on the matter. I wrote to all of the Theodore residents in these rural areas asking them for their opinion. I would like to thank residents for the huge response to my letter. It is the opinion of the majority of residents that they wish to protect this area from urban sprawl. As many residents stated, they regularly see mass land clearing for housing development. Whilst residents do understand that development is important to create jobs and a strong local economy, they also feel that there needs to be a balance.

Though some residents did look favourably on slight changes to the area where appropriate, they were vehemently opposed to the idea of 600-square-metre lots. A handful of residents were in favour of urban development, but they were heavily outnumbered by those against. The majority of residents want to protect their way of life. One resident said that she fell in love with the area for its beauty and peaceful living. Others highlighted the poor infrastructure on the northern Gold Coast, stating, 'The roads around here are already burdened with enough traffic and cannot cope with more.' A resident also mentioned to me the obtuse concept design for exit 57 at Oxenford by the minister's main roads department with no right turns and solar panels where the slip lane needs to go, forcing traffic onto already congested roadways. I will be writing to the Minister for State Development and the Mayor of the Gold Coast to express these residents' opinions and ask for careful consideration for the region to uphold the majority of residents' views.

I finish by speaking about another bomb scare at one of my local schools, Helensvale State School. This is the second time this has happened this year. We need tougher deterrents for individuals who place young children's lives in danger by stupid behaviour in threatening to blow up schools or carrying guns to schools. We need to get tough on these individuals and bring in tougher legislation as a real deterrent, because this is becoming an absolute joke for my electorate. This is the second time this year that it has happened.