



Speech By  
**Samuel O'Connor**


**MEMBER FOR BONNEY**

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Record of Proceedings, 9 September 2020

## ADJOURNMENT

### Bonney Electorate

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (7.24 pm): I rise for probably the last time this term—hopefully not ever—to say thank you to my community. For my entire life I have loved the part of the Gold Coast that I live in and it has been an honour to serve it. I have tried to be involved in pretty much every part of our community, whether that is schools, organisations, sports clubs or even Facebook groups. I have worked hard to engage with as many people as I can. I have turned up to the opening of an envelope, held mobile offices at cafes and parks and put on well attended forums on the Broadwater, second M1, crime and the city plan. Even the car I drive is a ute that invites attention, known as the 'Samarok'. I have used it to help people move house, including some fleeing domestic violence situations, to pick up kerbside rubbish and to help with our regular clean-ups of the Broadwater and Parkwood's bushland.

I have fought for jobs. I have pushed to make the full health and knowledge precinct a reality to create something of the empty blocks of state land there. I have advocated to build the second M1, to give hundreds of thousands of Gold Coasters another option instead of getting on a national highway in order to travel anywhere. I have raised issues with the road corridor so that people who have built their dream homes in The Surrounds and Arundel Springs are not forgotten when the plans are put together.

Crime is another huge issue. People are scared in their own homes, and I have long been fighting for more police resources and tougher laws to back them up. I have sat with many people in tears of sadness and tears of anger at our broken justice system. There is 16-year-old Preston Potter's family, distraught at having the man who ran him down while high on ice being given just a \$500 fine. There is also the incredible Beasley family, who are channelling their grief into campaigning for cultural change and action against knife crime.

I have helped our most vulnerable and tried to get better support for homeless people. I have talked about light rail—a lot—because I truly think this form of public transport is the key to our city managing growth sustainably. I have advocated for a stronger waterways authority and for the protection of the eastern curlew, the endangered migratory shorebird that calls the sandbanks of Labrador home in the warmer months.

On more than a few occasions I have taken on the Gold Coast Council. It is fair to say that I am no longer on the Christmas card list of a number of councillors, but I have been proud to stand by locals whether they just wanted to keep our iconic tinnies by the Broadwater, they had issues in their backyards or they were trying to have the ridiculous two-hour parking zones scrapped right up to fighting to protect what we love about Labrador, Biggera Waters and Chirn Park with the city plan changes.

I love being part of my community. I am proud to represent it in this place. I have given everything to being the local MP and I will keep working to have my constituents' support at this election so I continue doing it.