




Speech By
Trevor Watts

MEMBER FOR TOWOOMBA NORTH

Record of Proceedings, 8 September 2020

ADJOURNMENT

Toowoomba North Electorate

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (7.00 pm): On 31 October we will have an election in Queensland. The people of Toowoomba North deserve a local member who will be a strong voice and who will advocate for them. The election will be about who has an economic plan to get us out of recession. In my electorate, we have 9.9 per cent unemployment in Newtown, 10.5 per cent unemployment in North Toowoomba and 8.9 per cent unemployment in Wilsonton and Rockville. There are things that need to be done. We need a government with a vision to get Queensland out of the economic mess that Labor has put us in.

We need to invest in productive infrastructure as we did with the second range crossing, which was fully funded by LNP state and federal governments. We have an inland rail that needs to be built. We have local roads that need to be built. Boundary and Old Goombungee roads need to be connected so that the people of Highfields have an alternate way of getting into town. O'Brien and Kratzke roads need upgrading.

In my electorate we also need equity of opportunity, which means that some of my schools need upgrading. Land needs to be purchased at Newtown and buildings built to cope with the growing number of people. Wilsonton State High School does not have manual arts or hospitality facilities to teach to year 12. That needs to be addressed as a matter of urgency. The school need an arts and performance centre and a traffic management plan so that people can get to and from school safely. The school's car park was designed for 350 people but there are nearly 900 people at the school. The problems are not just at Wilsonton. Rockville and Newtown primary school facilities need upgrading and better maintenance. Newtown definitely needs an expansion of its facilities.

The LNP has committed to a water security assessment plan. We need a 30-year plan and not just for Toowoomba's domestic water supply. Industry needs to not just survive but thrive. To do that we need water security. On 21 December 2014 the Railway Parklands Priority Development Area was handed over to the local government, but it has languished with no or very limited investment from this government. If that priority development area is going to breathe life into the Toowoomba CBD, it needs an upgrade.

There is another critical piece of infrastructure that Toowoomba needs. Our health and hospital service does a fantastic job, but our nurses and doctors work so hard in a facility that is really not up to scratch. We need a hospital built on the Baillie Henderson site. The plans are in and the business case has been done. We need an LNP government so that those things can be delivered and we need a local member with a strong local voice.

(Time expired)