




Speech By
Brent Mickelberg

MEMBER FOR BUDERIM

Record of Proceedings, 22 April 2021

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (5.43 pm), continuing: In continuing my address-in-reply, at the outset I want to acknowledge the heartfelt and moving speech delivered by the member for Stretton here today. Despite the fact that we frequently have not seen eye to eye on policy issues, I know that he genuinely cares for his community and I am sure that they are better for his advocacy in this place. Peggy, all the best, mate. I am sure the thoughts and prayers of members from across the political divide will be with you during the days and months ahead.

In the first part of my address-in-reply speech I acknowledged how each of my children has shaped what I stand for. In the period since that time, the Mickelberg family has grown by one, with the birth of our son Lachlan Mickelberg on 1 April.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr MICKELBERG: I am a numbers man. Lachlan's arrival has brought our family so much joy, a little less sleep and a lot more chaos, but our whole family is excitedly looking forward to watching Lachlan's journey as he grows up. My wife, Anna, and I would like to particularly thank the midwives, doctors and staff at Buderim Private Hospital for their care and professionalism in delivering Lachlan during the COVID lockdown, with all of the associated complications that that brings. In particular I want to thank University of the Sunshine Coast midwifery student Jasmine, who guided Anna through the birth from start to finish.

When I was interrupted by the adjournment last sitting I was addressing one of the most important projects that I have been fighting for in the form of upgrades to the Sugar Road-Mooloolaba Road interchange. I again welcome the government's commitment of \$10 million to upgrade this dangerous and congested Sugar Road-Mooloolaba Road intersection. Each day 20,000 vehicles travel through the Sugar Road-Mooloolaba Road intersection and the resultant congestion at the intersection adds considerable trip time for locals. I particularly want to acknowledge the Minister for Transport and Main Roads who took the time to meet with me on site in March 2019. At the time he acknowledged the need for improvements, so news that construction will commence in mid-2022 is overdue but I welcome the acknowledgement of the demonstrated need for these works to be completed nonetheless.

As the Minister for Education screeched about in question time last sitting, for many months I have been calling on the government to build the new Palmview state high school so that it can open in 2022 and not 2023 as it is currently slated for. The minister's dismissive and arrogant response to my community's calls for her to get on with the job of building a high school that the government has already acknowledged is needed is a disgrace.

If the Minister for Education is genuinely here to serve the community, then she should be putting the interests of young Queenslanders at the forefront of every government decision. A decision that makes year 6 students at Palmview State Primary School attend three schools in three years does not do that. To suggest that Sunshine Coast residents should say thank you for the fact that the government

is doing the bare minimum and building a primary school is nothing short of a slap in the face, yet again the Minister for Education has shown how out of touch she is. If she has any integrity she will come up to Buderim, she will front up and apologise to Palmview parents and students.

The Minister for Education's contention that a new high school could not be built in time to open in January 2022 does not pass scrutiny. Given the fact that in May 2020 construction had not yet started on a single building for the new Palmview state primary or special schools and both were able to open eight months later, I find the contention difficult to accept. I table a photo taken on 26 May last year which shows the new Palmview State Primary School building site and nothing more than a concrete slab.

Tabled paper: Photograph depicting progress of new Palmview State School redevelopment [562](#).

I also table a second photo taken less than six months later which shows completed new school buildings at the Palmview State Primary School.

Tabled paper: Photograph depicting progress of new Palmview State School redevelopment [563](#).

While not all of the finishing touches have been put in place, the photo even shows completed landscaping and roads less than six months later. The education department's own staff have urged me to advocate to get this school built so it is ready to open in January next year. They know they can and it should be built now. The minister also knows that it can be built if the government would get on with the job.

Despite all this, Minister Grace has decided to play petty political games. It is time for the minister to stop peddling political spin that she knows is untrue. If she does not know that it is untrue, then she is not across the facts when she should be. Queenslanders deserve a government that will govern for all Queenslanders. If Labor is serious about putting the interests of Sunshine Coast residents ahead of its own, it can show it by getting on with the job of building Palmview state high school and I call on it to do so.

Another local issue that I have been campaigning on since before I was elected in 2017 is reducing the impact of congestion on Scholars Drive at Sippy Downs. While Scholars Drive is a local road, the state government chose to build a state school at the end of the cul-de-sac, so it has been disappointing to see it wash its hands of responsibility for the issue. I will not cease until I have resolved this significant issue that is placing student safety at risk and unnecessarily delaying parents and teachers.

I have been working closely with Councillor Christian Dickson and federal MP Andrew Wallace to find a way to get the much needed funds to deliver improvements to Scholars Drive. I hope to be able to update the community in relation to our progress in coming weeks. I know that not all residents support some of the proposed solutions to resolve congestion along Scholars Drive which, I note, I took to both the 2017 and 2020 elections. Regardless, I commit to working with the community in my pursuit to resolve the longstanding issues that exist at Chancellor State College primary campus.

Another local issue that I have been campaigning on is the need for a new Queensland Fire and Emergency Services facility to ensure that Sippy Downs and Palmview residents are adequately protected in the event of a fire or similar emergency. The current response to structure fires in Sippy Downs is regularly outside of QFES key performance measures requiring that 90 per cent of structure fires are responded to within 14 minutes. This is due to the fact that the nearest permanent station is Maroochydore Fire Station which, due to travel time from its North Buderim location, is frequently unable to arrive at calls for service in the densely populated Sippy Downs and Palmview within the required 14 minutes. Auxiliary fire stations at Buderim and Kawana do not typically respond to fires in Sippy Downs and Palmview and are only used to support the response from Maroochydore Fire Station.

Disappointingly, the state government has listed for sale state owned land set aside for the construction of a new fire station and it is astounding that in his response to one of my questions the minister has suggested that a new facility at Caloundra South in Aura will service Sippy Downs and surrounding localities. How a fire station located even further away than the existing fire station is supposed to service Sippy Downs is beyond me. The result will be even worse QFES coverage for Sippy Downs.

I have met with local firefighters and the United Firefighters Union and they have told me that the land set aside for a new fire station at Sippy Downs is uniquely located and provides direct access onto major arterial roads which is essential to delivering a timely response. With the Sunshine Coast experiencing considerable population growth the demand for QFES services will only increase. A permanent fire station located on the Sippy Downs site will complement the existing permanent Maroochydore Fire Station and any proposed QFES facility at Caloundra South. I call on the state

government to immediately cease plans to sell land set aside for a Sippy Downs fire and rescue station and to commit to building a permanent fire station on the land in accordance with the government's own previously identified needs.

Before I finish tonight I would like to acknowledge my hardworking electorate staff. To my current staff of Gina, Lee and Bailey I would like to say thank you for your commitment to looking after the people of Buderim and supporting me to do the same. To Tim, Cherie, Ruth, Shauna and Sandy, who have all worked in some capacity to serve the people of Buderim since I entered parliament, I would also like to extend my sincere appreciation. I know that all members of parliament realise how important the job is that our electorate staff perform so tonight I would like to say thank you. I will conclude my address by reaffirming my commitment to the people of Buderim to be an energetic, hardworking and constructive state member who puts the interests of the people of Buderim ahead of my own.