




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR THEODORE

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ADJOURNMENT

Theodore Electorate, Roads

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (6.12 pm): I rise to talk about the Coomera Connector, specifically the Helensvale Road interchange. Main Roads is proposing to put an interchange on Helensvale Road. The current road structure there is completely inadequate and it is a council road. This week I put a question on notice asking the minister whether they will give financial support to the Gold Coast city council to help them upgrade this road.

At three o'clock in the afternoon, this road is extremely busy. It is right next to a major high school which is one of the biggest on the Gold Coast and in the state. If the Coomera Connector does what it is supposed to do, at that same time of the day it will actually be redirecting traffic from the marine precinct and a lot of workers at the marine precinct will use Helensvale Road as a major thoroughfare. This will therefore place additional traffic there. This road is not designed for that at the moment. It is a single-lane, bidirectional carriageway. It needs to be upgraded. The Gold Coast city council cannot afford to do it all by themselves so I asked the minister whether they are going to allocate funds.

Charles Crossing is a major issue for my electorate. At the moment, it is very dangerous for motorists to turn right out of that intersection onto Tamborine Oxenford Road. A while back we received a letter from the minister highlighting that they are going to do an improvement, but the improvement they are proposing will only do a right-hand turn into Charles Crossing. That is no problem; the problem is actually getting out of Charles Crossing. We have a cenotaph in close proximity which is a very important memorial for residents, but we need to fix this intersection once and for all and make it safe for motorists. It also needs to be made safe for the pedestrians who use that because we have school drop-offs where two buses drop off children. The issue is that the kids cross the road making it extremely dangerous. That intersection needs a desperate upgrade.

I also need to mention hooning in the electorate. Every time I do a roadside, I guarantee I always get residents complaining about unlawful activity in motor vehicles at night on Reserve Road and Maudsland Road. These roads become a drag strip for hoons. I want to commend the Coomera Police Station for their efforts and for doing everything they can. I recently wrote to the regional officer in charge of the Gold Coast seeking additional support for them and to get PolAir to come out and regularly patrol these areas because we need to put a stop to this. I hear it from my place every single night. My neighbours also hear it, the people in Maudsland hear it and the people in Guanaba hear it. It is out of control. The police there desperately need as much assistance from PolAir as possible to put a stop to this antisocial behaviour before it kills somebody on the roads.