



Speech By  
**Aaron Harper**


**MEMBER FOR THURINGOWA**

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Record of Proceedings, 17 March 2022

**PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT**

**Drivelt**

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (2.58 pm): When I came into this place I came in with a strong desire to see the rates of road trauma decrease in North Queensland. That is tied to my former career. I put a lot of time and effort into advocating for a special project. I want to update the House on Drivelt. I am a motorsport enthusiast. Over the years in Thuringowa we have lost our dragway, speedway and carting has been restricted due to growth in the area.

Drivelt is a driver education and motorsport precinct. It took years of advocacy. I know there are some ministers here who have been well and truly supporting me, and I want to thank them. All of them—be it the ministers for police, fire and main roads or the Premier and the Deputy Premier—got behind me. Our first funding of \$5 million was to upgrade the intersection at Woodstock. I thank transport minister Mark Bailey. That provided the site and the big slip lane. You cannot pull up people on the Flinders Highway to queue to go into an event. That was the first \$5 million done. That slip lane has been delivered.

A couple of months later in 2020 the Premier came up and announced \$10 million to build the drag strip. Some of that money, after my visit the other day, has gone towards the actual track. The track will be completed in May. We want to see that become a tourism and events precinct as well, holding events like the masters and whoever else wants to come. North Queensland has a great motorsport following, as we have seen for years with the Townsville 400. Hundreds of thousands of people come up year after year to watch that event.

Importantly, the large vehicle manoeuvring area—it is a big skid pan—has been completed. I want to thank Pat Driscoll and the team. The police are already doing their driver training there. I will continue to have discussions. I want to see our Fire and Emergency Services and ambulance who would traditionally come to Gympie or Roadcraft trained at home in our own area and to see, again, the general public using it to reduce the rates of road trauma in North Queensland.

The Queensland government has got behind this. Because it sits beside the Lansdown industrial precinct, \$12 million was committed for that area. That will provide the infrastructure and internal roads funding as well. To Greg, to the entire team and to everyone behind it, thanks for your help to deliver Drivelt.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Some of the happiest if not loudest times of my youth were spent at those speedways and drag strips.