




Speech By
Aaron Harper

MEMBER FOR THURINGOWA

Record of Proceedings, 1 December 2022

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT

Thuringowa Electorate

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (2.46 pm): I would like to finish this final sitting week of the year updating the House and the very good people of Thuringowa on the achievements of the near \$200 million worth of election commitments in 2020 and what is going to happen in 2023. I will do this by way of a flyover of the electorate. I will start in the area of Heatley where \$12 million worth of school upgrades have been achieved at the secondary college. I am glad the education minister is here. The school community is very happy. The school is looking very modern for a 50-year-old school. Hats off to the team at Clontarf who recently graduated.

Heading past Heatley primary we pass some social housing that has just been built on Fulham Road. I was joined by the member for Mundingburra to look at that development. We will next head over to Thuringowa Drive in Kirwan where the Kirwan primary school is getting a \$2.8 million facelift. That will be kicking off in 2023. They are very excited.

I want to pay a special tribute to Ruth Stainbrook, who was the CEO of FEAT, Family Emergency Accommodation Townsville, for 32 years. She has just retired. I wish her well. They continue to look after vulnerable people in Thuringowa.

We will next fly up to Thuringowa and head right over the site of the new \$40 million Kirwan health campus, which I had a briefing on this week. I thank the health minister. It is looking great. The staff look forward to the sod turn in the New Year. Just to the right of that is the old 1300SMILES stadium. It is being redeveloped. I am glad the police minister is here. That will be the site of the new \$30 million Kirwan police facility and emergency services centre.

Mr Mander: You are going to take away the memory of my first game there!

Mr HARPER: I am glad you brought that up. I take that interjection. I am working with the CEO of the Cowboys and we are going to name some of the new wings in conjunction with the community and Cowboys. I have seen some initial drawings of the site.

Next we are going to fly over the \$235 million Townsville Ring Road stage 5. It has created 400 jobs and it is progressing well. I know everyone wants to know what is going on with Riverway Drive stage 2. It starts next year. There is a \$33 million water pipeline being funded by us and council so we can start on Riverway Drive stage 2. Stage 1 saw a \$50 million private investment in a new shopping centre and it recently won a state award for the best and most excellent plaza in the state. Well done, Geon! All of these projects are creating jobs for Thuringowa. I wish everyone a safe and happy holiday and I will see you in 2023.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, regarding Riverway Plaza [2035](#).