



## Speech By **Daniel Purdie**

**MEMBER FOR NINDERRY**

---

Record of Proceedings, 22 June 2022

### **ADJOURNMENT**

#### **Road Safety**

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (7.03 pm): Any life lost on our roads is one life too many. Sadly, however, the road toll across our state is rising and is tipped this year to be the worst in a decade. Unfortunately, in my electorate we are not immune from the devastating consequences of these fatalities. Tonight I am tabling a petition launched by the Coolum State School P&C, Coolum Business and Tourism, other community groups and I and signed by more than 2,000 local residents calling on the state government to fast-track funding to upgrade our roads and to help stop the carnage.

*Tabled paper:* Nonconforming petition regarding fast-tracking funding to improve road safety and bust congestion in Coolum [908](#).

Since 2008, when the Beattie-Bligh government first announced works to duplicate the Sunshine Motorway, 25 lives have been lost on this stretch alone. These are not just figures; they are families whose lives have been ripped apart and destroyed. It was the most recent death of a three-year-old toddler only two weeks ago that became the catalyst for my community to collectively say enough is enough. This is yet another broken promise of this third-term Labor government. For 14 years Labor have been sitting on plans to duplicate the motorway and upgrade the interchange at Coolum.

At the last state election Labor committed to duplicating the motorway and allocated some initial funding to start work all over again on the upgrade plans. While the community and I welcome the funding and I appreciate the minister personally inspecting the site at my invitation, we wanted to see funding allocated in this budget to get shovels in the ground. This budget was an opportunity to fast-track the works that have been earmarked for more than a decade, an opportunity to improve safety for the thousands of motorists who get stuck in the gridlock on the motorway every single day, an opportunity to tackle the rising road toll and an opportunity to deliver on the plans for my community which were first promised in 2008. What did we get? We got another broken promise! There was no extra or fast-tracked funding to address this major safety and congestion issue that has been exacerbated by the region's exponential population growth and no immediate solution to addressing the rising road toll.

The state Labor government have had more than a decade to fund the long overdue duplication of the motorway and the Coolum roundabout. Their failure to listen and plan for the ongoing growth of our region is nothing more than a slap in the face for every single person who lives on the Sunshine Coast and regularly uses this dangerous stretch of road. The president of the Coolum State School P&C, who stood beside me to launch the petition, made it very clear that the safety of the more than 1,000 students and the wider school community was being impacted by the government's failure to deliver on its promise.

As we have learnt, this budget is full of broken promises, more taxes, no extra cost-of-living relief, no extra funding for social housing and nothing to help bust congestion and improve safety on one of our major road networks on the Sunshine Coast.