



Speech By  
**Trevor Watts**


**MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA NORTH**

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Record of Proceedings, 13 October 2022

## ADJOURNMENT

### Toowoomba North Electorate, Schools

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (7.25 pm): I rise to talk about traffic safety around schools in my electorate. This year in the budget there was money allocated for infrastructure. We have run three petitions: one at Toowoomba State High School, one at Wilsonton State High School and one at Fairview Heights Primary School. Toowoomba State High School is of particular concern. There was an accident there last week where one of the students ended up in hospital and two cars were damaged and it obviously cost a lot of money. Although the traffic layout of Stuart Street and North Street is clearly in need of straightening up, the problem is that on a foggy day you will not see the road. That is particularly dangerous for the children who are trying to get across that road, either in cars or on foot. Toowoomba has a very large Yazidi population who are new Australians and a lot of them attend Toowoomba State High School. They have a different sense of traffic while they are still adjusting to life in Toowoomba and they are certainly not used to fog. It is a particularly dangerous intersection that is in great need of investment to make it safer.

Wilsonton State High School needs a scramble crossing on the intersection of Richmond Drive and North Street. At the moment the children cross the road and get stuck on one corner. Simply turning this T-junction into a scramble crossing would allow them all to safely get across and it would help traffic to flow. The situation at both of these schools are accidents waiting to happen. The minister has allocated funds in the budget and they should be allocated to these schools as a priority.

The traffic situation at Fairview Heights Primary School has been an ongoing problem. A number of years ago local residents started complaining about parents parking outside their properties. Helpfully the local council came and put 'no parking' signs up everywhere. It is a dead-end street. There is absolutely nowhere to park a vehicle. You cannot safely pick up children. Traffic is going around in circles. It is chaos at pick-up and drop-off time. I am concerned that a young person will get injured. The infrastructure money that has been allocated in the budget should be used for this school so that we can get a good traffic management plan and an infrastructure upgrade to make sure the children are safe at Fairview Heights Primary School.

Wilsonton State High School needs a scramble crossing, Toowoomba State High School needs North and Stuart streets straightened up and Fairview Heights Primary School needs a car parking solution for the young children as they are trying to get into their parents cars and/or walk home. Currently none of them are safe. The money is in the budget.