



Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

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ADJOURNMENT

Redcliffe Electorate, Pedestrian Safety

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (6.03 pm): I rise to talk about an important project happening in my electorate—that is, the building of a pedestrian overpass to join the Clontarf Beach State High School with the Education land fields across the road. I am aware that the federal member, Luke Howarth, has today been in Canberra playing politics with this particular project, talking about the trees and koalas, which are important to our community, but failing to talk about why it is being built—for the safety of the students.

Luke Howarth is one of these people whom, depending on whom you talk to, you will hear different answers from. He tells people what they want to hear. While he is in Canberra complaining, he should instead be in Clontarf talking to the P&C and the students who put this proposal forward because of the death of Caitlin Hanrick. Thousands of people in Redcliffe will remember the day that Caitlin was struck and killed by a speeding car that ran a red light while she crossed four lanes of traffic between the two campuses of Redcliffe State High School. Redcliffe remembers. We remember the sirens and the helicopters flying overhead. I remember the coronial inquest and the principal, Shona McKinlay, having to give evidence.

This Sunday, 6 December, is the anniversary of Caitlin's death. She was 13 years old. From that coronial inquest there was a recommendation to ensure that, under the school safety guidelines, there is progressive installation of overpasses at state schools where they have campuses separated by busy roads. That is what Clontarf Beach State High School has. It does not have buildings, but it has fields that the kids use. The school has said that it would be utilising those fields more often if the students could cross safely. There are 22,000 cars a day going past that school. I had a mother contact me in recent weeks. Her daughter, who normally walks with her younger brother, had to jump out of the way of a vehicle that almost hit her. While we were standing there filming that clip with her, we caught a vehicle running a red light.

Luke Howarth has not mentioned the students once. He plays politics and says that this is the state government's fault—except it was approved by Barnaby Joyce. It had to be a shovel-ready project that was 80 per cent funded by the feds and it was done under the Morrison government with Barnaby as the relevant minister. Luke Howarth has taken no responsibility for that. Conveniently, it is all a state issue. He fails to say that, while 53 trees have been cut down—12 large trees and 41 small trees—in their place 265 trees are being planted, including 40 mature trees for koalas in a place that is a safer corridor. He needs to stop lying to the people of Redcliffe.