




Speech By
Aaron Harper

MEMBER FOR THURINGOWA

Record of Proceedings, 16 November 2023

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Thuringowa Electorate

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (2.49 pm): I will stand on my record of delivering for Thuringowa any day of the week against any candidate, be they LNP, Katter or whoever steps up and has a go. They should try to keep up with this. On roads alone there is Hervey Range Road upgrade, Riverway Drive stage 1, Townsville Ring Road stage 5, Riverway Drive stage 2—and I will be there fighting for it all the way until we cut the ribbon. That is \$433 million just in roads. I got advice from the minister's office on QTRIP—and I am the glad the members for Townsville and Mundingburra are here—and, together, we have delivered \$2.1 billion in road upgrades in the northern district, creating nearly a thousand jobs. That is what we do in North Queensland.

In water security there is the Haughton pipeline, \$450 million; Riverway Drive duplication of the water main, \$33 million; Lansdown, water, \$26 million—another \$500 million on water security. The jokers opposite should not even come at us, because they cannot speak up. They cannot shine a light on any of this because they do not back it in. Phillip Thompson promised and lied—he told a mistruth. He failed the people of Townsville on water.

Mr HART: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member just used unparliamentary language. I would ask that he withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Martin): I did hear that and I then heard the member correct himself. For the record, would you withdraw, member for Thuringowa?

Mr HARPER: I withdraw. In health there is \$1.3 billion this year alone. After the LNP sacked 400 nurses we have employed—and I thought it was 600 but I have received updated information—900 health workers. We have doubled the number they sacked in Townsville. In police and emergency services there is over \$131 million. There is a new ambulance station in Kirwan and a new one in Burdell. Of course, there is the police academy and the new Kirwan Police Station.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr HARPER: Members opposite might not want to hear it, but I am going to go right through the list. In housing, there is \$100 million on new accommodation right throughout Townsville, and there are more projects to come. There is our port expansion, \$2 billion. Of course, I go back to the Queensland Country Bank Stadium, \$290 million, and \$250 million on Works for Queensland. This is an incredible list. How did we get to 2.7 per cent unemployment in North Queensland? The members from North Queensland know. All of this adds up—and my favourite is coming: education. There has been \$12 billion delivered since 2015 in infrastructure projects. That is the proud record of the Labor Party.

I have been saving the best for last: \$100 million in building, maintenance and new halls has gone into the nine state schools in the Thuringowa electorate. I will highlight just one: Kelso State School, \$5.5 million. What did the LNP put in during their time? \$500,000. I table a list.

Tabled paper: Email, dated 13 November 2023, from the Caucus Liaison Officer, Office of the Hon. Grace Grace, Mr Dan Byron, to the member for Thuringowa, Mr Aaron Harper MP, regarding education infrastructure in the Thuringowa electorate [1905](#).

Shame on the LNP for not investing in education and infrastructure. That is why we had a 13 per cent unemployment rate under them and we have 2.7 per cent under Labor.

(Time expired)