



Speech By  
**Julianne Gilbert**


**MEMBER FOR MACKAY**

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Record of Proceedings, 16 November 2023

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Mackay Electorate, Bruce Highway**

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (2.10 pm): The Bruce Highway is a lifeline for transport up and down the Queensland coast. In my region it connects us to the north and south and keeps our economies moving. In the more regional areas it is not uncommon to come across newly harvested sugar cane being hauled to the mill right on the Bruce Highway. The milled sugar is then taken to the port. Our fruit and veggie growers in Bowen rely on safe and reliable roads to transport their produce to feed our population.

Connections to our wonderful tourist destinations are very important. Our drive tourism is as strong as our fly-in-and-out tourism. Connections to our mines and port commodities, especially at junctures along the Bruce Highway, are very important. The Port of Mackay just celebrated another bumper year of commodities throughput including grain, fuel, sugar, large mining equipment—and the list goes on. The next phase, which is to complete stages 2 and 3 of the Mackay Ring Road in order to get commodities away from where people live and work, could be at risk. We need to put people's safety first. My community—mums and dads and businesses—expect the next stages to be built.

**Ms Camm** interjected.

**Mrs GILBERT:** What did you say? Something about 13-year-olds drinking—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Martin): Order! Direct your comments through the chair, please, member.

**Ms CAMM:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I believe I briefly heard some comments made by the member for Mackay. I take personal offence and I ask her to withdraw.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Mackay, the member for Whitsunday has taken personal offence. Do you withdraw?

**Mrs GILBERT:** I do withdraw.

**Ms Camm** interjected.

**Mrs GILBERT:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I am not taking her interjections.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Members, the member is not taking interjections. If there are continual interjections I will start warning people.

**Mrs GILBERT:** We need to make sure that we get the next stages of our ring-road up and running. The Bruce Highway is very important. The former member for Dawson, George Christensen, promised to fix the Bruce, but he did not. He even took out big billboards on the Bruce. We were expecting to have it fixed, but he just did not. We need to continue building overpasses over our railway lines and more overtaking lanes to get traffic moving.

**Ms Camm** interjected.

**Mrs GILBERT:** Some people sniggered. Is she talking about drunk teenagers again? I cannot hear her.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Through the chair, please, member for Mackay.

**Mrs GILBERT:** I cannot quite hear what she is calling out to me.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mrs GILBERT:** I am not taking her interjections. I stand with the Deputy Premier and support him going to Canberra to make sure we get the money we need to continue to fix the Bruce.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Whitsunday, before you start, I heard unparliamentary language used as an interjection. I ask you to withdraw that.

**Ms CAMM:** I withdraw.