




Speech By
Mark Boothman

MEMBER FOR THEODORE

Record of Proceedings, 11 May 2023

ADJOURNMENT

Regional Sitzings of Parliament, Cairns; Theodore Electorate, Infrastructure Projects

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (5.11 pm): Before I begin I would just like to thank the people of Cairns for being so welcoming. It has been very good conversing with local residents up here. They have obviously been very vocal about their opinions on matters. I just want to say thank you on behalf of the LNP for being so welcoming and vocal.

I also want to speak about some issues that many residents in my area have been expressing comments on, and that relates to infrastructure projects. The first topic I would like to mention is the proposed Coomera Connector. The Department of Transport and Main Roads is planning not to install sound barriers on the western side of the Coomera Connector north of Saltwater Creek. This is a recalcitrant decision that will allow sound to boom through residential houses within close proximity to the Connector. That estate is River Links Estate. This is completely unacceptable to those residents and they urgently want this reviewed. Residents of Fleetwood Court and River Links Boulevard East will feel the full force of the Coomera Connector going through their houses. To make matters worse for them, the Coomera Connector at that section will be raised; therefore, sound will travel across parkland straight into their living rooms and bedrooms. If that affected a member on the government benches, I can guarantee they would get it fixed. I want my residents to be treated as they would have their residents treated. They need sound barriers all the way from Saltwater Creek north along the Coomera Connector. We also need to install sound caps on the Coomera Connector sound barriers.

I have contacted the minister and put questions on notice. It is quite interesting that the government is more interested in penny pinching than those residents' rights to have a decent life in the backyards of their own properties. If it was a government member they would get it fixed. Install sound caps on these sound barriers to make a real difference for these residents. They have every right to have a backyard barbecue.

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Order! Member for Coomera, you are warned. There will be no interjection across the chamber.

Mr BOOTHMAN: These simple requests are as simple as the original request I made for the Hope Island train station: 179 car spaces was not enough.