




Speech By
Brent Mickelberg

MEMBER FOR BUDERIM

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ADJOURNMENT

Sippy Downs, Police Resources; Sugar Road and Mooloolaba Road Intersection

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (8.45 pm): The communities of Sippy Downs and Palmview are fed up with all of the break-ins. They are fed up with the stolen cars. They are fed up with attending their local police station only to find it closed. Our community want their voices heard. That is why today I am tabling a petition calling on the state government to upgrade the Sippy Downs Police Station to operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week. That is the least our community deserves.

Tabled paper: Nonconforming petition regarding the need for a 24-hour police station in Sippy Downs to combat crime [850](#).

This petition has received overwhelming support with more than a thousand signatures. Local police officers have been telling me to keep pushing as it is what they need to get the job done. They need more police officers and resources allocated to offer a bigger presence to tackle the growing crime epidemic and provide more community engagement. It has been 15 years since the Sippy Downs Police Station opened. During that time, the Sippy Downs population has almost doubled and a whole new estate has been built in Palmview and well over 5,000 residents have moved in already, yet the current police station operates on business hours with fewer police than it did in 2009. If only criminals worked Monday to Friday we would be right!

Here are some scary statistics: since 2015 in Sippy Downs, home break-ins have increased by 79 per cent; stolen car offences are up a massive 188 per cent; and, incredibly, assaults have risen by more than 1,000 per cent. It is unfathomable that Labor has ignored our community on the Sunshine Coast for so long. Why does this Labor government not care? Why do they not care about the families when a possibly violent person is creeping around their home while they sleep? That is a regular occurrence in my electorate. Why do they not care about the tradies who wake up to find their tools stolen or their ute taken? The current small team of police officers at the Sippy Downs station are doing their very best with very little. They are not just covering Sippy Downs and Palmview; they often get called to help in Buderim or Mountain Creek. Imagine the assistance they could offer if they had the appropriate resources.

To make matters worse, I can advise that the Sippy Downs and Palmview Neighbourhood Watch has recently disbanded, with the entire committee resigning this month. They spent years fighting for a safer community, but in the end they could no longer continue without adequate support, despite their passion for volunteering. I want to thank the tireless efforts of group president Margaret and committee members Howard, Jill, Melissa and John. Neighbourhood Watch groups can play an important role in our communities if supported correctly. Sippy Downs and Palmview are now worse off and that is just another reason why we need a 24-hour police station.

Before I finish I want to table a petition calling on the state government to upgrade the intersection of Sugar Road and Mooloolaba Road in Buderim.

Tabled paper: Nonconforming petition regarding the need to upgrade the intersection of Sugar Road and Mooloolaba Road, Buderim [851](#).

Despite funding being allocated previously by the former minister for transport—that is a credit to him—it has now been cut and traffic congestion is getting worse every single day. Traffic is banked up for kilometres on Buderim Mountain and on Golf Links Road, so I call on the government to make fixing the intersection of Sugar Road and Mooloolaba Road a priority in the upcoming budget.