




Speech By
Bryson Head

MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

Record of Proceedings, 11 September 2024

ADJOURNMENT

Callide Electorate

 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (9.24 pm): Firstly, I want to give a quick mention to the team at the CCCI for a terrific Chinchilla One Long Table, which was held on the weekend. It is always a terrific event. It has been running for 10 years. I say a huge thank you to the Chinchilla community for the street food and multicultural festival. It is a great event that is held in September every year. I encourage everyone to get out and enjoy it in the future.

This week it was a pleasure to table a petition on behalf of the Burnett community, alongside local farmer Russell Zahnow, to get the Mundubbera Durong Road fully sealed to two lanes. That is a critical road and a critical route. Sealing the road to two lanes all the way through and allowing road train access will unlock the half-a-billion dollar agricultural economy of the North Burnett. There is huge potential there and we need road train access into the North Burnett.

As the road is currently, there is just over 11 kilometres of single-lane bitumen. It is incredibly inadequate and it is incredibly unsafe, as anyone who travels that route regularly will say. I travel the road very regularly. I have smashed many windscreens when driving along that road because you have to pull off the road when vehicles come towards you. Their tyres will be on the gravel and they throw up rocks at your windscreen. I have seen whole windscreens sitting beside that road because people have had a windscreen smashed so badly that they could not drive any further and had to kick the windscreen out of their vehicle to be able to continue along the road. That is how inadequate, dangerous and unsafe that road is. We need to upgrade the road to twin lanes and we need to make sure that when we spend that money and invest in that road that it is road train rated to unlock the economic potential of the North Burnett, which is the citrus bowl of Queensland. It is a great little agricultural hub and it has so much potential if we get the right freight access to that community.

With regard to crime, many questions and concerns are raised with me when it comes to policing resources in Callide. Earlier in the year it was incredibly disappointing to learn, from an answer that I received from the minister, that in Callide and the broader Callide region, comparing June 2019 to February of this year, there were 18 fewer police officers. That is 18 fewer coppers who are servicing the broader Callide region over a period of a few years. It is no wonder that crime is out of control in this state.

That is why the LNP is serious about bringing in terrific crime policies such as Adult Crime, Adult Time and backing it up with rights of victims and early intervention programs, boosts to residential care and the rest. It is no wonder that the police are overworked. They are sick of simply doing paperwork and locking up the same offenders, which is why they are leaving. It is why there are 18 fewer coppers in Callide and across the Callide region. That is why we have to turn things around and bring in strong crime policies in Queensland. If you want to see change, change the government and show Labor the door in 2024.