




Speech By
Daniel Purdie

MEMBER FOR NINDERRY

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ADJOURNMENT

Coolum Surf Club; Coolum State School, Road Safety

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (7.13 pm): I have some breaking news. I have just received a text message from someone at the Clubs Queensland Awards at the convention centre to report that one of my clubs, the Coolum Surf Club, has just won Surf Club of the Year. Mr Deputy Speaker Kelly, I know that you are a big fan of the surf club. I know of your close connection to Coolum, as your mother was formerly a constituent of mine. I was honoured to have her in my electorate. I want to be the first to give Coolum Surf Club a massive shout-out. I will have to find some time maybe later this week to go into a bit more detail about that.

The most chronic long-term issue in my electorate—apart from the acute issues of cost of living and crime—is congestion and road safety. In my first speech I spoke about the congestion at Coolum and about how our local road network has not kept pace with the escalating population growth, particularly around Coolum State School. Every morning and afternoon the Coolum State School roundabout fails, causing cars to tail back onto the motorway and causing the motorway and the big roundabout at Coolum to fail. It is not just the school traffic that causes this. I am mindful that it is not all their responsibility. The biggest issue and the first part of that puzzle we had to solve was the school drop-off area. Over the past 100 years the school has grown from a handful of students to over a thousand students today. The school drop-off area, which had only four car spots close to the intersection at the School Road roundabout, was no longer sufficient. Parents used to tail back onto the roundabout, causing it to fail.

Recently, thanks to principal Anthony Ryan, the school P&C, the SafeST committee and our broader community, which has been running campaigns and petitions for funding to upgrade the school drop-off area, we have been able to secure the funding. I am happy to report to the House that upgrades will happen over the Easter holidays in the next couple of weeks. As students return to school after the Easter holidays we will see an upgraded school parking and drop-off area with room for up to 10 cars so parents can drop off their kids safely. As I said, this is only the first part of a bigger puzzle. This needed to be done before we could upgrade the roundabout at School Road, which I spoke about in my first speech. Recently, we also secured \$5 million. After Easter, I am hoping that before the end of the year we will see shovels in the ground at that roundabout, replacing it with a signalised intersection.

Unfortunately, that is not going to fix all of our problems. The next stage is for the council to extend its road network at South Coolum, at Suncoast Beach Drive to the motorway, so we can get some south-facing on- and off-ramps. I congratulate Taylor Bunnag, who looks to be the new councillor for division 8. I look forward to meeting him in the near future to talk about stage 3. I thank everyone who has fought for these upgrades.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): I highly recommend the Coolum Surf Club!