




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR NOOSA

Record of Proceedings, 6 March 2024

ADJOURNMENT

Noosa Electorate, Transport Infrastructure

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (7.19 pm): I would like to send my condolences to the member for Bonney. Grandpas are magic. It is only eight years until the Brisbane Olympics—that is two terms. The projected impacts require serious commitments in multiple realms, including strategic transport to mitigate further congestion, parking rage and environmental carnage for Noosa. With the Sunshine Coast rail line project being partially funded there is hope as well as concern. Will the modal shift that has been touted for decades eventuate, lessening our overburdened M1 and its tributaries or will it lead to more cars when they hop of at Caloundra en route to their Noosa base?

With the Commonwealth government increasing net inward migration to over half a million in 2022-23 yet making no real contribution to what is needed and cancelling grants already approved for the states, I am very concerned. My community is constrained and under ongoing strain. To accommodate Olympic visitors as well as projected population increases within our region, we must finish the projects that are already underway such as the next stages of the Tewantin bypass. With the population explosion to our north, we need the north coast rail study finalised and the rail shuttle from Gympie North to Nambour initiated. We need pedestrian crossings at our hot spots and an end to the inappropriate volume of heavy haulage that has decimated our sleepy villages. We need better public transport links to hospital and university precincts to our south and essential bicycle path links. A faster rollout of smaller electric busses is a must.

Noosa is already gridlocked every weekend and has been since COVID, whether into Hastings Street or in the line-up to the North Shore. To reduce volume, the state must release those long-awaited recommendations regarding Cooloola. It must work with the Noosa council on projects to address congestion and resident amenity in preparation. What will that look like? Resident permits? Visitor parking stations and electric shuttles? Safe transit bike lanes or pathways? There are lots of questions. The old adage that congestion itself will keep visitor numbers manageable has been shown to be a furphy—just ask any resident or visitor who has sat for two hours as they tried to reach their home or holiday let just a kilometre down the road.

We need to see a coordinated plan as currently there are only fragments, silos and a vacuum. We need the three levels of government to work together with binding bilateral and bipartisan agreements to fund infrastructure and initiatives without the uncertainty that changing governments bring. We need more than hype. We need solid reassurances. Let's see the action now so we can celebrate later.