



Speech By
Mark Boothman

MEMBER FOR THEODORE

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ADJOURNMENT

Theodore Electorate

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (9.29 pm): Firstly tonight I want to address the concerns of elderly residents at Baldwin Living Sequana in Upper Coomera. The Gold Coast City council has notified Baldwin Living of an approximate 80 per cent rise in their rates, justifying this as a concept of 'rate equity'. For many residents this is not an abstract policy change; this is a direct hit to their weekly budget. These are retirees, many of whom are on fixed pensions and modest incomes and simply cannot absorb increases of this scale.

Council's correspondence indicates this increase will be phased in over eight years; however, there is no clear detail how this will occur. Residents deserve certainty and a transparent schedule for the proposed changes. This should include a clear explanation of the basis for the new rating treatment to ensure there are safeguards and reasonable caps. I urge council to meet directly with residents and provide plain-English answers, not broad assurances. I wish to thank councillors Fowler and Gates for fighting this good fight.

Secondly, I want to speak about the responsibility we all share in having a strong community, one where people and businesses can act as good neighbours. Most do, but there are some who do not. For the last 18 months I have been requesting Nucrush Quarries to clear out a drain on its Upper Coomera property to restore water flow and prevent flooding on neighbouring residential properties during flood events. This request has been raised by my office and by offices of local councillors, yet it continues to be ignored. Clearing a drain is not a complex issue. It is not costly. It is not controversial. It is a basic responsibility. Nucrush has shown no interest in being a good neighbour. This is clearly not the only complaint I have received about this business—there are plenty more other complaints. I just wish to highlight that this very simple task of clearing the drain would stop flooding on residential properties that neighbour this business. Therefore, it really does speak volumes to the mindset of Nucrush Quarries.

Lastly, I wish to thank Matt Walker, the First Officer of Coomera Valley Rural Fire Brigade. He has been their first officer for the last 4½ years. He has led with distinction. He has led from the front. He is a very passionate member of that brigade. This year he has decided to hang up his first officer boots, but he will remain a very active member of the brigade. Matt Walker, thank you for all of your years of hard work and diligence, serving the brigade and serving the Theodore electorate with high distinction.