




Speech By
Shane King

MEMBER FOR KURWONGBAH

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ADJOURNMENT

Kurwongbah Electorate, Road Infrastructure

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (9.05 pm): This evening I rise to talk about transport matters in my electorate, in particular the level crossing at Mackie Road in Narangba. This level crossing is sandwiched between four council roads—Mackie Road, Mumford Road, Main Street and Burpengary Road. Awkwardly, these intersections also mark the boundaries of two City of Moreton Bay council divisions representing the residents of Narangba—divisions 2 and 11. I also want to congratulate our very newly elected councillor for division 11, Ellie Smith, who was declared the winner of a by-election earlier this month. I know that this crossing is on Ellie's radar, and I hope that means we will see money in council's next budget committed to solving this problem.

It is important to be clear about the responsibilities of different levels of government, and I hope the Minister for Transport is listening or watching because his disgracefully politically charged answer to a question on notice I asked him about this crossing suggests he might not be sure of the different levels and what they do. The state government via Queensland Rail and the Department of Transport and Main Roads has responsibility for the train lines, train stations and level crossings. We could close the level crossing. That is what we could do. In fact, I think that is what we should do, and I think we should do it as soon as possible. Any local road is the responsibility of local council. If a local road needs upgrading or an alternative local road needs to be built, that is the responsibility of council.

Council has been talking about solutions for the Mackie Road crossing traffic problem for at least a decade. It has never approached me as the local member or government to help fund it, in my recollection. A possible Narangba East overpass is costed at \$169 million in council plans for 2031-2036 and upgrading the intersection of Boundary and Narangba roads to traffic lights and the capacity of the bridge there to carry heavy traffic has been costed by council at over \$10 million with the same timeframe—2031 at the earliest.

On the other hand, new residential developments have been approved by council throughout Narangba and surrounds and new shops are planned right next to this dangerous intersection. The developers have not been told to wait until 2031 to build the houses. The people moving there have not been told to wait until 2031 to drive on our roads. Parents have not been told to wait until 2031 to enrol their kids in the school off Mumford Road or the kindy on Mackie Road. It has not been suggested to local seniors that they wait at least until 2031 to move into the local aged-care facility otherwise any family on the other side of the rail line will not have time to visit them.

I am calling on the council to act now. Hurry up and build a way around the level crossing or upgrade Boundary Road. It is too dangerous to wait until 2031. There will be accidents and someone could die. To the transport minister I say once again: I do not want to upgrade this level crossing; I want it closed.