



Speech By
Mark Boothman

MEMBER FOR ALBERT

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ADJOURNMENT

Gold Coast

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Albert—LNP) (11.29 pm): With glorious golden sandy beaches, picturesque emerald hinterlands and crystal blue skies, what is there not to love about the Gold Coast and South-East Queensland? This reputation is revered far and wide across our great nation and is a magnet for singles, families and retirees who want to live and experience the best part of the planet.

The lust to live within this region is the driving force for the massive population explosion on the northern Gold Coast and southern Logan City. Parts of this region are growing at rates of 20 per cent per year. This population growth is placing enormous, unsustainable pressures on our local road infrastructure. Furthermore, the failure of local governments to upgrade local roads that become thoroughfares only exacerbates the problem of getting motorists to and from their destinations.

On Monday, 31 October 2016 an accident at exit 34, Beenleigh North, paralysed the M1 motorway for motorists heading north. This caused extensive delays for motorists, with traffic queuing for many kilometres. These traffic congestion events are becoming regular in nature as we funnel more vehicles onto roads that are already at capacity. Therefore, I echo the comments made by my good colleague the member for Mermaid Beach in a speech on 1 November when he talked about the desperate need for an alternate arterial link between Logan, Brisbane, Ipswich and the Gold Coast—the inter-regional transport corridor.

Every time there is an accident on the M1 motorway, the road network goes into meltdown. Therefore, we desperately need an alternative arterial link that crosses the major rivers of the region, the Coomera and Logan, especially for residents who live on the east of the M1 motorway. This new arterial link would help reduce traffic loads on the M1 and help relieve massive congestion at our motorway off-ramps.

Pretty pictures in some planning scheme brochure have little meaning for average residents subjected to traffic jams every morning and afternoon. Residents are placed in dangerous situations trying to exit the motorway at exit 45, Ormeau, and 49, Pimpama, or subjected to queuing and road rage at exit 57. The continued policy to push more residents into these areas without adequate infrastructure is a contentious issue for our residents. I ask that the planning of this new road be brought forward.