



Speech By
Mark Boothman

MEMBER FOR THEODORE

Record of Proceedings, 28 February 2019

TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (3.06 pm): Recently I was in the Scenic Rim electorate. I sent the member a text message about his local roads being in a state of disrepair and suggested something needed to be done about it. Residents in the seat of Theodore continue to complain about local infrastructure and massive development growth. They feel that road infrastructure is not keeping up with development in the area. There is no better example than the interchanges in the northern section of the Gold Coast. In recent times there has been money allocated to exit 57, but many residents find it quite comical that the department placed solar panels where we need a slip lane. They see it as a massive waste of funds. The minister needs to think about the carbon footprint of all those cars and quarry trucks coming from the Nucrush Quarry stuck at those lights when there could be a slip lane to allow direct access to the motorway.

However, this is only a small part of the problem. There has been massive growth in development in the northern Gold Coast. The Auditor-General's report states only 16 per cent of the maintenance has been funded. It is little wonder so many of our roads are becoming heavily choked. We do not have the money for maintenance of the current road infrastructure. Even more concerning is the lack of backlog maintenance of bridges and culverts. There are multiple bridges on the motorway. I put a question to the library about what type of maintenance is done on these bridges and if are we keeping up with it. My community would have serious concerns about what is contained in the report.

We do not want our infrastructure to deteriorate. Those roads are the very lifeblood of our area. We need to ensure that the bridges are in good repair and that there are no problems with them, especially in my area where we have a lot of heavy vehicle traffic. We need to ensure that our bridges are safe to use.

I will give an example to highlight the lack of maintenance on the northern Gold Coast. During the Commonwealth Games numerous residents said me, 'Mark, when are they going to clean the verges?' We had lots of traffic travelling down from Brisbane as international visitors came to see our beautiful city of the Gold Coast. Everything was supposed to be pristine and clean, but I had to continually pester the department about maintenance that needed to be done. We had Commonwealth Games facilities in very close proximity to graffiti on sound walls along the motorway, which is not a good look when international visitors are coming to our beautiful city.

I can understand that it is very difficult to get the minister to sign off on projects when there are massive backlogs. For example, we need traffic lights at the intersection of Michigan Drive and Tambourine-Oxenford Road, which is a major thoroughfare and is dangerous, especially for vehicles turning right.

Mr Bailey: You did nothing. Why didn't you do it when you were in government?

Mr BOOTHMAN: I say to the minister that his Labor Party has been in government for over 20 years, bar a less-than-three-year period. That shows that they have been sitting on their hands the whole time.