



Speech By
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MEMBER FOR THEODORE

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ADJORNMENT

Theodore Electorate, M1 Motorway Upgrade

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (7.24 pm): The M1 motorway exit 57 is a topic that I have spoken about in this chamber many times. It is a critically important interchange in the Theodore electorate. Since it was first constructed in 2001, it has become one of the busiest interchanges on the northern Gold Coast. During the last state election both major parties committed to funding an upgrade of this interchange, which was certainly welcomed by local residents, but in May 2018 residents were horrified when they saw solar panels being installed on the land that residents were hoping would become a slip lane to bypass the congestion and have direct access to the M1 motorway. Residents demanded a petition to force the government to install that slip lane and remove the solar panels which 1,416 residents signed. Unfortunately, this was ignored.

Last week the Minister for Transport and Main Roads must have been so embarrassed about the plans for upgrading exit 57 that he announced them from Brisbane. This upgrade includes the removal of right-turn lanes which would hurt local businesses and force traffic on to an already congested local road network with multiple entrances and exits for shopping precincts. This is a \$25 million upgrade. What value for money are taxpayers receiving in my region? I will tell members now: no right-turn lanes, extra line markings, ramp-metering traffic lights on the southbound merge and a couple extra lanes.

Furthermore, the minister has ignored residents' pleas for a direct access slip lane that bypasses the traffic signals that would increase traffic flow. Residents are also pleading for traffic signals that react to traffic volumes and adjust accordingly, again increasing traffic flow. We also need another bridge across the motorway to take traffic away from the heavily congested exit 57. Finally, we need another arterial road to cross the Coomera River to give local residents an alternative to the only arterial road—the M1 motorway—on the northern Gold Coast, again reducing the need for motorists to travel on the M1's exit 57. We need to get motorists home sooner and safer, not waste fuel by sitting in congestion at multiple traffic lights looking at solar panels. My residents are demanding action on this matter and they feel that the minister is wrong. They want him to listen to the people of the northern Gold Coast and implement a meaningful upgrade that will reduce congestion and give motorists an alternative while not destroying local businesses.