




Speech By
Mark Boothman

MEMBER FOR THEODORE

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ADJOURNMENT

Theodore Electorate; Evans, Mr B

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (6.28 pm): I rise tonight to talk on some topics that are causing concerns for residents on the northern Gold Coast. On 11 January this year, the northern Gold Coast road network went into meltdown due to an incident on the M1 motorway shortly before noon involving a fuel tanker and vehicles. This forced the police to declare an emergency situation. A week later on 18 January, a rain event caused extensive flooding on the M1 motorway at Oxenford and it was not until just before noon that both directions of traffic were open for motorists. Motorists were forced to use local roads that are not designed to hold vast amounts of traffic. Reserve Road at Upper Coomera became the alternative M1 motorway as motorists were forced to use this road and the two other smaller connection roads which are to the side of the M1 motorway. Therefore, what normally would be a 15-minute trip was blown out by two hours.

The problem is that the Coomera River is a natural barrier and has limited options for motorists to traverse it—two service roads beside the M1 motorway and the John Muntz Bridge. As I stated, the majority of motorists were forced to use Reserve Road. Reserve Road leads into Tamborine Oxenford Road and crosses the Coomera River at the John Muntz Bridge. In 2017 the connection road that leads up to the John Muntz Bridge was washed away. Whilst this road has been repaired, the riverbank is still vulnerable to further erosion events as no stabilising reinforcement works have been carried out apart from the small section near the bridge. One could imagine the total traffic chaos if the John Muntz Bridge was washed out of action and the M1 was closed. We need to reinforce the riverbank and start construction of the second M1 for the northern Gold Coast to give motorists an alternative. These two events show how vulnerable the road network is on the northern Gold Coast, especially as you traverse the Coomera River.

Another concern residents have expressed to me is the recent knife attacks and crime. They are frustrated at what they perceive as a revolving door legal system. In a recent newspaper article, the police highlighted their frustrations with the catch and release strategy of the courts. Only recently, a shop attendant in a local convenience store feared for her life after two thugs threatened her with harm while they robbed the store. It was a truly terrifying experience for the young lady who worked there at the store to help pay off her university fees. Residents feel the system gives perpetrators more rights than victims, and they are demanding that the legal system be overhauled as the current system is certainly not working.

I would like to wrap up my adjournment speech by making mention of Boyd Evans after his sad passing last night. Boyd Evans was a great member of the Ormeau Lions club. He was a district president. He was a person who would go out of his way to help every single human being he could.