




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR THEODORE

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ADJOURNMENT

Theodore Electorate, Road Infrastructure

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (7.24 pm): I rise to speak about an issue that is certainly front and centre for my constituents: exit 57. Recently, a television crew came to do a story about the exit. They were certainly astonished at the number of vehicles doing U-turns in a local pub car park, all because the department removed the right-hand-turn lane from old Pacific Highway coming from Bunnings. The reporter asked, 'Does this happen all day?' I said, 'Yes, it happens all day, every day.' Every 15 seconds a car did a U-turn through the car park. When the member for Broadwater was travelling to attend the press conference, he was delayed in traffic on Hope Island Road. Every single day Hope Island Road carries extensive traffic caused by a lack of foresight or vision to build a proper intersection. The residents use alternative roads such as Michigan Drive that are not designed to take such volumes of traffic. Residents continuously complain to me about the increased traffic on local thoroughfares.

We have to take into consideration the massive amount of development in my local area. The Queensland government Statistician's Office estimates a population increase of around 15,000 people moving into the area around exit 57 by 2031. I will break that down. We will have an extra 5,000 people around Hope Island, 1,700 people around Oxford—which does not include the redevelopment of the acreage lots—4,000 people around Helensvale and, according to the data, around 7,000 people in the Upper Coomera area.

Residents are desperately looking for a permanent solution that has some vision. The member for Broadwater and I have set up a petition to highlight this problem. We need a long-term solution that allows free-flowing traffic, instead of short-term and short-sighted bandaid fixes. Residents are frustrated that the government continues to react, rather than being proactive. We need to invest in infrastructure that has the capacity to take on population growth. A solution must include bypasses and flyovers that allow for the continuing movement of traffic, avoiding queues at traffic signals. Most importantly, residents continuously tell me that we need to plan for the future and build capacity in our roads to take into account the increasing population in our local area.