



Speech By  
**Mark Boothman**


**MEMBER FOR THEODORE**

---

Record of Proceedings, 18 June 2021

## **APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL**

### **APPROPRIATION BILL**

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (4.28 pm): Before I start my budget speech, I would like to offer my condolences to Mr Duncan Pegg's family. He was a great member of this chamber and his life was taken too soon. I served with him on a committee for quite some time and I always enjoyed his company. He was a very decent human being and his family should be very proud of everything he achieved over the years.

Before I commence the main part of my contribution today I want to highlight an issue that has come to my attention through some of my constituents. That issue relates to a cut to a program on the northern Gold Coast with Gold Coast health. This is an important program for newborn children born to vulnerable families with high needs. This program is going to cease at the end of this financial year. Quite a few residents have been pleading with the government to extend the funding. These are vulnerable children—infants up to the age of two—that this program looks after. In this program nurses make home visits to ensure the children are safe and well and to give support to the families.

We talk in this place about saving money, but when it comes to a very small cost burden on Queensland Health—in this case, Gold Coast health—the home visiting program should be continued. I ask the minister to please look at the budget and continue funding for this program. It is having a great impact on the northern Gold Coast and it is well worth continuing. We should not be cutting programs that protect the most vulnerable in our society. I again ask the minister to please talk to her departmental officers on the Gold Coast and reinstate this funding so this program can continue.

The Theodore electorate is situated on the northern Gold Coast, a place I am very proud of. It is a beautiful electorate. We have suburbia and the rolling hills of Mount Tamborine in the back areas. It is a very diverse area with multiple suburbs dotted throughout the electorate such as Pacific Pines, Oxenford, Wongawallan, Guanaba, Clagiraba, Coomera, Upper Coomera, Helensvale and Maudsland. Each area has its own specific needs. I want to talk about the roads budget because obviously roads are a very important connection piece for all of our electorates.

When it comes to the roads budget for the Theodore electorate, there is a roads project coming up soon, which I do appreciate. It is something for which I have been pushing the department for quite some time. That is the Beaudesert Nerang Road and Maudsland Road intersection which is receiving signalisation. That is a very dangerous intersection and I am happy it is finally receiving funding. It certainly does warrant it. However, when I look at the QTRIP information package I see that most of the projects in the Theodore electorate are being posted into the never-never.

**Mr Minnikin:** Smoke and mirrors.

**Mr BOOTHMAN:** That is right. It is smoke and mirrors. I take that interjection. One example is the riverbank upstream from the John Muntz Bridge. This is a very important issue for my constituents. Back in 2017—and I have said this in this chamber so many times—the riverbank washed away which

cut the connection road on the western side of the bridge over the Coomera River. When that connection road was cut it caused a catastrophe for residents from all over the northern Gold Coast, in the areas of Upper Coomera, Tamborine Mountain, Wongawallan, Guanaba and Maudsland because it is the main thoroughfare. Around 10,000 to 13,000 cars travel across that bridge per day. The government made a promise at the last election—they decided to listen to the LNP—to fix this. However, they have pulled the funding out to 2023-24 and 2024-25, so it is literally in the never-never. Every time there is a flood, more of the riverbank is washed away, which costs more money than it would have to fix it in the first place.

The problem is that we are reaching the point where we will have to replace the bridge. If the government had spent \$920,000 back in 2017 fifty-fifty with the Gold Coast council to repair it, that would have cut it. However, since then the cost has gone up dramatically because we have lost upwards of 100 metres of riverbank. A total of \$2 million is not going to cover fixing the riverbank anymore. We are looking at three times that—potentially \$6 million to \$8 million to fix it. That is a problem that the government needs to address. If we allow more riverbank to wash away, it is going to cost the taxpayer even more to rectify. Potentially, the government may have to spend \$50 million to build a whole new bridge the full length of that flood plain to protect that vital arterial link that services the tourism areas of Mount Tamborine. When the bridge went out of service last time, it crucified those businesses. Those people do not deserve to go through that again. They do not deserve to have their visitor numbers collapse because this government has not done its homework and did not fix it when it should have.

Some funding has also been allocated for Tamborine Oxenford Road and Michigan Drive, which is a very dangerous intersection. Again, this \$2 million has been put out into the never-never. This is a very dangerous intersection for motorists turning right out of Michigan Drive onto Tamborine Oxenford Road. That is a very busy road that carries 10,000 to 13,000 cars a day and is part of a major transport network for buses. Those buses can sit waiting at that intersection for 15 minutes before a gap appears, which puts their timetables out. That then ruins their timetabled connections with trains. This is a project that needs to be undertaken sooner rather than later. Whilst people are very cautious when entering that intersection and we have not had a fatality there, there will be one in the near future.

Then there is Charlies Crossing, which I know is not on QTRIP. It also desperately needs an upgrade. Ever since the Gold Coast city council allowed the new service station to be constructed on the state controlled road—and Main Roads ticked off on it and said they just had to do a minor upgrade—it has caused traffic chaos for anybody trying to turn right out of Charlies Crossing Road. People are getting to the point where they are absolutely fed up with waiting. They are also worried about kids crossing that road. There is a bus stop on each side of the road and in the mornings and afternoons kids actually run across that road. It is so dangerous. This needs to be made a priority. It needs to be put in the QTRIP budget for this year, but that is not going to happen. Many of my residents feel they are being left out.

There is some money for safety works on Henri Robert Drive, but there is still no money for a safe left-turning lane into Henri Robert Drive from the gorge road. It is needed because it is on the reverse side of a blind hill. On many occasions I have seen near misses there when people decelerate to turn into Henri Robert Drive. They will be flying over the hill at 80 kilometres an hour, as everyone does, and a car will slam on their brakes because they are trying to make that turn. Many times we see cars swerve into oncoming traffic to avoid running into the back of another vehicle. It is a danger and it needs to be looked at.

On the subject of my local schools, I want to thank the Minister for Education for sending out a nice little spreadsheet and giving us an update about what is happening in our schools. However, we only received a very small amount of money for our schools. There are old schools in the Theodore electorate. One of the oldest schools on the Gold Coast is Coomera State School. It desperately needs some TLC and a lot of money spent on it. There are new schools being built around it. Parents will decide to send their children to the new schools because they do not realise that Coomera State School is a fantastic school. It does not have the brand spanking new buildings like Picnic Creek, but it is a fantastic school. Due to its age they have dealt with all the teething problems and the school is working well. However, this school desperately needs the extra funds spent on it.

The department should not be taking more students out of the Coomera State School catchment area. At the moment it has multiple classrooms sitting empty because the new schools are taking the children, who are now not going to the older school. I ask the Minister for Education to redraw the catchment boundaries in order to increase the population of that local school. Every time the school population falls they lose a deputy principal and skilled teachers, and they are very hard to replace. Those teachers have been there for many years and they know the environment; they know how to deal with the families and the children there. The department needs to allow that school to increase its population in order to keep those great teachers there.

Park Lake State School needs a facilities upgrade. The size of the staffroom needs to increase to facilitate professional development and aid learning outcomes for staff. Obviously the school has dramatically increased in size since it was first built, so that upgrade is well worthwhile.

Teachers and principals tell me that they need heads of year levels—master teachers to guide and give help to teachers and ensure they are supported to teach well. That is something the department certainly needs to look at. That is something my principals and P&Cs have been very vocal about over the years.

I mention sporting facilities in my electorate. I asked a question on notice of the Minister for Sport which highlighted the deficiencies at my local sporting clubs and the desperate need to upgrade their facilities. Coomera Hope Island Cricket Club desperately needs lighting and a clubhouse upgrade. Its clubhouse is an old wooden structure. The club wants to get a lot more female players involved, but it does not have the facilities to properly cater for them.

The Coomera Colts Soccer Club desperately needs to fix up its falling-down facilities. The old clubhouse has cracks through it and the toilet system does not work very well. It is a major issue. Coomera Colts is one of the largest soccer clubs in South-East Queensland and the largest soccer club on the northern Gold Coast. The Helensvale Hawks cricket club—

**Mr Crandon:** Pimpama's going to beat them eventually.

**Mr BOOTHMAN:** I do not take that interjection. Ormeau will not beat them. The Helensvale Hawks cricket club is after additional change rooms for its female players. The Coomera Magpies clubhouse is in desperate need of an upgrade.

I refer to public transport in the area. I highlight a desperate need to increase buses in the western areas and around Helensvale. Many elderly residents shop locally, at Sir John Overall Drive. Currently, they have to go along Discovery Drive and walk upwards of 1½ kilometres to get to the shopping centre. If they could go down the road I just mentioned, they would have a minute's walk to the shopping centre. That would make the lives of elderly residents in the Helensvale area so much easier.

We have a good wake park in the area. Bus transport into that wake park would make a huge difference, especially to young people in the area. It would help that business through this tough time but, most importantly, get young people involved in sporting activities. Wakeboarding is a fun sport. I encourage people to come down to that wake park.