




Speech By
Mark Boothman

MEMBER FOR THEODORE

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ADJOURNMENT

Theodore Electorate, M1

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (6.27 pm): I rise tonight to talk about the traffic chaos that is forced upon my electorate every time there is an accident on the M1 motorway, especially when the accidents occur within close proximity to the Coomera River bridge. Last weekend a serious accident on the M1 motorway once again sent the Theodore electorate into a complete meltdown. I table a congestion map for the benefit of members.

Tabled paper: Map, undated, depicting traffic congestion along the M1 motorway on the Gold Coast [1200](#).

If members look closely at this congestion map, they will see that most of the traffic was forced across the John Muntz Bridge, which is located in my area. This bridge has had its connection road washed away back in 2017. According to the department's figures, 19,492 vehicles use this section of road daily. These figures do not include the enormous number of vehicles that are forced to use this connection road when there is an accident on M1 motorway.

On 14 October 2020, the Minister for Transport and Main Roads finally committed to fixing the riverbank upstream of the John Muntz Bridge. I quote from an interview on the minister's Facebook where he said—

This is also about strengthening the embankment further up so that the erosive impact of the river in another kind of event will have a lot more bank protection so I think that's something people wanted to see and Labor is delivering it.

Yet in this year's QTRIP document the funding for these important works has disappeared. I am regularly reminded by residents—people like Bill Page, Scott Stratton and other locals—of the critical importance of the John Muntz Bridge for our local community.

Residents are watching the riverbank slowly get eaten away during heavy rain events. It will only be a matter of time before erosion will get behind the rock enforcement adjacent to the bridge, therefore placing the connection road at risk again. Locals have vivid memories of the traffic chaos and the damage to local businesses when this arterial link was severed last time. They expect the government to do everything they can to protect this critically important infrastructure.

This bridge is not just the gateway for my electorate. It is also the gateway for Mount Tamborine. It is also—and this is very important—a backup link for the M1 motorway every time we have an accident. This is why it is so important for my residents to have this fixed. If it were fixed properly when it originally blew out, it would have cost probably less than one-eighth of what it would cost today. By delaying it, it is going to cost more and more and more. Nineteen thousand cars use this bridge daily. It is a critical piece of infrastructure on the northern Gold Coast.