



Speech by

PHIL REEVES

MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD

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DEVELOPING HOUSING ESTATES

Mr REEVES (Mansfield—ALP) (8.45 p.m.): I wish to speak about how developers establish housing estates with no concerns other than to quickly sell the blocks in any way that they can. I use the example of the Gainsborough Park Estate in the suburb of Mackenzie in my electorate. The developer of that estate promised the residents that the estate would be part of the Brisbane City Council transport network. However, agreement by the Brisbane City Council was never given to the developer, who has clearly misled the people of the estate.

While those residents have recently had the Mount Gravatt Bus Company take over the contract for the estate, the infrequency of the service, which presently runs only to Garden City, is a major drawback to increased patronage of the service. There is no service on late night shopping nights or weekends, which means that its usefulness is very questionable. I am happy to say that the Transport Department is examining options with the company to extend the service to the city. It is hoped that this trial will commence in February 1999.

While transport is one problem in this estate, it appears to be only the tip of the iceberg. Although the estate is impressive when one first buys into it, with traffic calming and appropriate landscaping, problems occur with the upkeep of the landscaping. However, the major problem I see is that the residents, and particularly the young people, are isolated. There is not even a shop in the estate, which has over 800 residents and is growing. If one does not have a car, it is quite a long walk to the closest shop.

While there are swings close to the estate that are appropriate for smaller children, the young people are badly left out. The Liberal councillor gained a half-court basketball court for the young people. However, he arranged for it to be built a long distance from houses. Indeed, it is virtually in the bush. This area has been badly maintained and it would take a "four-wheel drive pushy" to get there. Above all, I believe that, because of its seclusion, parents would be extremely reluctant to allow their children to go there. I have met with the young people to talk about the problems in this regard and they want a place to ride their bikes and skateboards without having to hassle anyone. At present, the only suitable place is the road. I do not believe that that is an unreasonable request.

I will be working with all levels of Government to try to rectify these problems, but I believe that we should all ensure that if developers set up housing estates——

Time expired.
