



Speech by

Mr S. SANTORO

MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD

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CITY/VALLEY BYPASS

Mr SANTORO (Clayfield—LP) (11.09 p.m.): This evening, I wish to discuss briefly the continuing saga of the City/Valley bypass and to report to the Parliament that last Sunday I attended a public protest meeting, which was held at the Brothers Rugby Union Club—a meeting that was attended by just under 400 people. All of those people were protesting against the construction of the City/Valley bypass as currently proposed by the Brisbane City Council.

In terms of this issue, there actually was a major development at the meeting. For the first time during the development of this issue, the chair of the Brisbane City Council transport committee, Ms Maureen Hayes, turned up to the meeting and addressed it. During her address, she sounded affable, she sounded empathetic, she put on some theatrics and really came across as quite concerned. She quoted extensively from the assurances that were contained within the impact assessment study relating to the City/Valley bypass.

That impact assessment study is quite a voluminous study. It looks big—it is big—and, as a document, it looks impressive. However, what my constituents knew clearly and understood that day as the kind councillor made her presentation is that it did not contain the opinions, the feedback and the input of the people who are directly affected within the community that I represent in this place in relation to the City/Valley bypass. Basically, the community let Councillor Hayes know what their views were in relation to that lack of information within that impact assessment study.

The community wants input into the whole project—into the development and the finalisation of the project, if it is to be developed and finalised—before it is, in fact, commenced and completed. My constituents believe that the plan

needs to be reopened. This evening, I call on the Brisbane City Council to do this—to reopen the plan and to provide my constituents with the opportunity to have the input into the plan that they did not have.

When the consultants for the Brisbane City Council conducted the impact assessment study, all residents and businesses from Cooksley Street all the way down Kingsford Smith Drive to the Gateway TAFE college and in the suburbs west or east of Kingsford Smith Drive certainly were not consulted. I think that, if the plan is reopened and the input of the local community is sought out and they are genuinely consulted, there may be changes to the plan that may lead to a sensible proposal going ahead. Until that input is, in fact, obtained by the Brisbane City Council, my constituents do not believe that the council has done anything that even resembles natural justice, proper consultation or procedural fairness.

Basically, I am saying to the city council: you have a group of people within my electorate who are very reasonable people—people who appreciate that the problems which the City/Valley bypass seeks to solve need to, in fact, be addressed and that a City/Valley bypass in some form is necessary in order to remove dangerous and heavy traffic from the inner city, including the Valley. But they do not want to be treated like mushrooms by Brisbane City councillors, who have become increasingly arrogant.

I suppose that, over the next little while, members of this place will receive many representations from my constituents. I just want to read from a letter which I have received, and which has been received by other members within this House. The plea contained within it is very simple. It states—

"As a local resident I am extremely concerned about the negative impact of the

Inner City By Pass on residential areas near Kingsford Smith Drive.

Poor public consultation to date has exacerbated this concern.

As an elector and ratepayer I deserve an answer from Council on:

what alternatives to this road were seriously considered

what benefits will this road give Brisbane which overcompensate the adverse environmental and, more importantly, the social impacts of this road.

As a local resident I demand a clear assurance that Council will commit to on-going, meaningful consultation with residents on all aspects of the Inner City By Pass which impact on local amenity and quality of life.

Most importantly, I seek an immediate assurance from the Government and the Council that in funding and planning this major road development adequate consideration is given to protect the residential areas adjacent to Kingsford Smith Drive from increased local traffic flow, noise impacts and pollution."

I simply wish to reinforce that plea from that constituent, which is representative of thousands of my constituents. The city council really needs to reopen the study and start consulting in a fair dinkum way with residents who hitherto have just not been in any way consulted in relation to this very important infrastructure development, which will fundamentally impact on their residential amenity.

Time expired.
