



Speech by

Ray Stevens

MEMBER FOR ROBINA

Hansard Tuesday, 31 October 2006

ROBINA STADIUM

Mr STEVENS (Robina—Lib) (10.12 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to talk about a matter of great concern to me and to the Robina electorate. The Robina stadium is being built by the government and we thank them for that very generous act. Unfortunately, provision has been made for only 600 public car spaces in the stadium. That has been based on the very successful Suncorp Stadium. That has worked well in Brisbane where there are many rail and bus connections and as the stadium is located in the centre of the city. The Gold Coast is a lineal city and the train, in particular, runs along the western spine of the city. Our bus services are nowhere near the equivalent of those in Brisbane in terms of the funding received from the state government.

Unfortunately, we are sure that the provision of only 600 public car spaces will impede the long-term success of the Titans, the National Rugby League franchise. The Gold Coast has already suffered from the loss of National Rugby League teams. Further public car spaces, so that members of the public can drive to the stadium, should be provided now. For instance, at the Dairy Farmers Stadium where the Cowboys play, thousands of public car spaces are available. At Robina, something similar needs to be put in place now before the land is taken up. Seventeen hectares are available right next to the stadium. It is publicly owned flood land. It should be protected by the government in conjunction with the Gold Coast City Council to provide the parking necessary for the long-term success of this franchise.

Without a doubt, if that is not done we will see parking throughout the neighbourhood of Robina. Traffic flows will be impeded. The member for Mudgeeraba should be very concerned about the upgrades being carried out on the roundabouts between Mudgeeraba and Robina, because Main Roads is already saying that, because only 600 car spaces will be available at Robina, only 600 cars will go to the games at the stadium. That is not correct. People from Southport, Coolangatta, Runway Bay and Burleigh will not have an opportunity to drive to the facility.

On the Gold Coast, for some events such as the Indy, which happen once a year, bus transport has worked. However, the stadium will be used week in, week out. The success of the Titans requires public parking in the vicinity of the stadium. The management of the Robina Shopping Centre will not allow parking in the centre car parks. Quite clearly, now is the time to do something.