



Speech by

Hon. Robert Swarten

MEMBER FOR ROCKHAMPTON

Hansard Tuesday, 8 August 2006

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Carina Heights, Housing Department Land

Hon. RE SCHWARTEN (Rockhampton—ALP) (Minister for Public Works, Housing and Racing) (10.07 am): I wish to throw some light on outrageous claims that are being made about land owned by the Department of Housing at Oates Hill, Carina Heights. Despite strong denials to the contrary and despite a total absence of evidence, scaremongering has emerged over the future of this bushland site on Brisbane's south side. The scare comes from the member for Chatsworth, who is so worried at the prospect of losing his seat to Chris 'Bomber' Bombolas that he has resorted to a blatantly misleading campaign.

Mr Messenger interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Burnett, I warn you under 253.

Mr SCHWARTEN: He has even dishonestly quoted me. There can be no other reason for Mr Caltabiano's blatantly incorrect claims about the future of this site.

Mr Mickel: He's terrified.

Mr SCHWARTEN: He is terrified of 'Bomber'. My commitment to the former Chatsworth MP and former Deputy Premier, Terry Mackenroth, and to the current member is the same. The housing department will do a land swap with the Brisbane City Council to preserve the Oates Hill site as a green zone. Unlike the current member, Mr Bombolas has already shown leadership on this issue.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SCHWARTEN: I will say that again because it got such a good response. Unlike the current member, Mr Bombolas has already shown leadership on this issue. Mr Bombolas has offered to bring the Brisbane City Council and the department together.

Mr Caltabiano interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Chatsworth, I warn you under 253.

Mr SCHWARTEN: He squirms, and rightly so. You know the dog has been hit by the stone by the bark.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, come back to the issue.

Mr SCHWARTEN: And the howl. Mr Bombolas has offered to bring the Brisbane City Council and the department together to get the bean counters talking. I have advised of my readiness to come to the table.

Council can swap the site for other land suitable for public housing development or purchase the land at a fair and reasonable price, not at the market price for development as the Liberals claim. This of course would not please Mr Caltabiano or his muckraking mate Councillor Adrian Schrinner. Councillor Schrinner reportedly claims that there has been high-density public housing—

Mr Caltabiano interjected.

Mr SCHWARTEN: We know from your interjections about your tactical lies. That is what we are experiencing for the people here. You admitted on television that you are a tactical liar. Councillor Schrinner reportedly claims that there has been high-density public housing proposed for the site. Maybe that idea came from Mr Caltabiano, because it certainly did not come from me. Whatever the case, his claim is untruthful.

Mr Caltabiano interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Hold on, Minister. Member for Chatsworth, you have already been warned under 253. You know what the next move is, don't you?

Mr SCHWARTEN: You do not like it. The truth hurts. The people of Chatsworth deserve better. Resorting to scaremongering in the face of a legitimate political challenge is not fair on residents or people waiting for public housing. I met some residents there last week when I visited the site with Mr Bombolas. I told them what I have told Mr Caltabiano—that is, the land is still there. It is available to council for a swap or sale at a reasonable price, and this is a commitment that is not going to change. End of story. I call on the new Leader of the Liberal Party to show some decency and courage and pull him into line.

Tabled paper: Copy of ministerial statement by Hon. R Swarten titled 'Oates Hill, Carina Heights'.