



Speech by

Annastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Hansard Wednesday, 10 October 2007

OXLEY QUARRY

Ms PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (10.12 pm): Last Thursday night I organised a community information evening at the Oxley Bowls Club in relation to ongoing community concerns about what is locally known as the Oxley quarry. I was pleased that over 100 Oxley residents attended this evening. The Oxley quarry is an old clay mine site that has been operating for 50 years and occupies 15 hectares bordering Douglas Street and Jutland Street. The site is significant in size and owned privately by Austral Bricks. However, Austral has obligations to ensure that the rehabilitation of this site complies with state government legislation.

As part of the information night I organised two representatives of the EPA to attend—Mr Brendan Lee, the Operations Manager of the Mining and Extractive Industries Unit, and Elisabeth Dunlop, Environmental Officer and Project Manager. I want to place on record my thanks to the minister for allowing both of these EPA representatives to attend on the night. Brendan Lee explained to the residents the need to rehabilitate the site and to stop any erosion, as there have been landslips around the site in the past.

The information night was about the state government requirements and not about any council rezoning matters, which a lot of residents had concerns about. This community information night was to highlight the conditions currently under mining lease 1167 and what Austral must do before it submits a zoning application to council. I have met with local residents and the most logical zoning I can see is for it to be zoned residential with community access. Developments these days are ensuring that buffer zones are kept and integrating things like walking and bike trails for the use of not just the residents but the community at large. The Environmental Protection Agency also highlighted the need to ensure that a wetland habitat is retained and other requirements as outlined under the Environmental Protection Act.

But how did this information night come about? I have met with residents and had a personal overview of the site with them. I have read the many letters that residents have sent to me by email and also sent to my office and the photos that they have taken over the years. People in my electorate feel very passionately about the area, particularly in relation to the birdlife. I posted a letter to every resident living around the site. I invited the council to the meeting to explain the zoning issue and this request was refused. I invited someone from Austral Bricks to attend this meeting and this request was refused, and I express my disappointment.

The outcomes of the meeting were that the site has to be rehabilitated due to the erosion and there have been concerns about the removal of the trees and the residents will form a subcommittee to put together a petition that I hope to table in parliament in the near future. There was unanimous agreement that the residents do not want the area zoned light industry. There was unanimous agreement that the residents want the site zoned residential in line with other developments in the local area such as Edenbrook. I also undertook to have a meeting with Austral over the next couple of weeks to let it know the outcome of the meeting. I thank the residents for bringing this issue to my attention and I will continue to pursue it with passion for them to get the best community outcome for the site.