



Speech by

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MEMBER FOR SURFERS PARADISE

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THE SPIT, QUEENSLAND TRANSPORT DEVELOPMENT

Mr LANGBROEK (Surfers Paradise—Lib) (10.04 pm): Last month, very few Gold Coasters knew of the member for Logan, the minister for transport. However, tonight, hundreds of residents in the state's south-east will not sleep easy because of this man and his government. We have just heard from the member for Robina about his stymying of a ferry service for the Gold Coast, which our people down there really want.

An interesting public notice surfaced recently—a public notice of development application for a project at the northern end of The Spit. The applicant for the development—a 980-square metre building to be built on the north-east of The Spit adjacent to the kiosk car park—is none other than the state government department of transport. The transport department, headed by the member for Logan, wishes to build a maritime simulator training centre on a protected site, a site which the Premier herself pledged would be protected under her government.

In August last year after the Beattie government sank its ill-considered, out-of-favour plan to build a cruise ship terminal at The Spit, the then Deputy Premier and now Premier undertook to preserve the eastern side of The Spit and Federation Walk. The Premier has publicly promised to preserve The Spit north of Seaworld Nara and the Sheraton, a position that I support and that the community supports. This also reflects the Gold Coast City Council's position as expressed by the Harbour study process in 2003.

A press release from the former Premier, Peter Beattie, on 3 August reiterating the state government's plan for the Southport Spit made no mention of any development on the eastern area of The Spit. That is why it is interesting that the member for Logan, within a month of coming into the Transport portfolio, wants to renege on his own government's policy to preserve the environment at The Spit by pushing ahead with a development application. This is a senior minister undermining the Premier.

Hundreds of Gold Coast residents have already indicated their opposition to the minister's development application. I call on the Premier to reinforce her promise to keep The Spit special and ensure that her ministers are well aware of where she stands on issues such as this.

Unfortunately, The Spit is not enough for the minister, who wants to carve up Surfers Paradise to make way for an ill-considered rapid transit route. The contemptuous move by the minister to impose the Southport to Broadbeach route upon residents of the Gold Coast with no consultation illustrates his government's arrogance when it comes to delivering services. If the minister is so worried about the workload consultation, he can palm it all off to Main Roads, which I believe is something he and his staff have really embraced since coming into the portfolio four weeks ago.

It is high time the government stopped treating the Gold Coast like a holiday destination. It is the sixth largest city in Australia and one of the fastest growing regions in the country. The Labor government needs to get serious about planning for the future—something it has failed dismally to do in the past, especially on the Gold Coast.

The preferred route is a bad move which will end up costing Gold Coasters and the government for years to come. The people are against it. Local residents, the Property Council, Surfers Paradise Chamber of Commerce, Gold Coast Combined Chamber of Commerce, Commerce Queensland and the Urban

Development Institute of Australia are unhappy with the route which will carve up Surfers Paradise. The rapid transit system is over time, over budget—

Time expired.