



Speech by

Fiona Simpson

MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE

Hansard Wednesday, 12 November 2008

EIGHT MILE PLAINS, GO CARD

Miss SIMPSON (Maroochydore—LNP) (11.47 am): The member for Mansfield, Phil Reeves, is continuing the pain caused by the Bligh government's bungled rollout of the go card to commuters in Eight Mile Plains. Close to 1,400 commuters have petitioned transport minister John Mickel and Mr Reeves against the decision to deny any Eight Mile Plains business the opportunity to sell or top up go cards, and I table that petition.

Tabled paper: Non-conforming petition relating to cessation of sale of public transport tickets from the Eight Mile Plains Newsagency.

Queensland Transport's decision forces commuters to travel at least three kilometres to another suburb to access the services. The go card rollout has caused enough headaches for commuters, but Mr Reeves has sat by while essential transport services have been stripped from his constituents. There were 300 outlets selling bus tickets—

Mr REEVES: I rise to a point of order. I find those words offensive. Anyone who knows me in this place knows that I stand for public transport, and I want them withdrawn.

Miss SIMPSON: What words?

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mrs Kiernan): The member will withdraw.

Miss SIMPSON: I withdraw. There were 300 outlets selling bus tickets prior to the go card's introduction, with Queensland Transport reducing the number to 165 in 2008. Minister Mickel needs to realise that a good public transport system makes it easy for people to buy tickets and he is clearly failing people at that level. Eight Mile Plains News sold tickets to commuters for nearly 13 years and employed a designated staff member to sell tickets in the Eight Mile Plains area. Commuters came to rely on this service, but it has now been slashed thanks to the Bligh government. The newsagency's submission to become a go card retail outlet was denied and this has left commuters fuming.

Close to 1,400 people signed this petition asking transport minister John Mickel to reconsider his decision, but he has clearly ignored their reasonable request. Sadly, the local member has not gone in to bat for them, simply forwarding the petition to Mr Mickel but failing to produce a result for his constituents or to raise the matter in parliament, other than to interrupt now.

Mr REEVES: I find those words offensive. They are untrue and I ask them to be withdrawn.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mrs Kiernan): Order! The member for Maroochydore will withdraw.

Miss SIMPSON: I withdraw. Sadly he has not raised this issue—

Mr REEVES: I rise to a point of order. I ask for that to be withdrawn. I find it untrue and offensive and I ask that it be withdrawn—the further comment after the member was asked to withdraw.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I call the member for Maroochydore to withdraw.

Miss SIMPSON: I withdraw.

Time expired.