



Speech by

Fiona Simpson

MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE

Hansard Wednesday, 3 December 2008

GOLD COAST RAIL SERVICE; EASTERN BUSWAY, RESUMPTIONS

Miss SIMPSON (Maroochydore—LNP) (11.52 am): I have been presented with a petition from the LNP candidate for Yeerongpilly, Julianna Kneebone, which I table regarding the call by local residents for the reintroduction of the Yeerongpilly stop on the Brisbane-Gold Coast rail service. I draw this to the attention of the government and ask it to listen to the people.

Tabled paper: Non-conforming petition relating to Yeerongpilly Railway Station.

On another issue of great concern, businesses affected by future resumptions for the Eastern Busway are crying foul over the treatment they have received from the Bligh Labor government. The businesses which will be resumed as part of the busway's second stage, from Buranda to Cavendish Road, have endured continual delays in the resumption process and are still awaiting a formal notice of intent from the state government, despite promises to receive it early in 2008.

The business owners feel betrayed, and this has been a headache for them. There are issues about receiving fair compensation but they are mainly crying out for a time line that does not keep shifting. These people have been through hell. Two people have suffered heart attacks related to the stress caused by this situation, but the government has shown little compassion and it is continuing to leave these people living under a cloud.

Business owners in the Coorparoo Mall were notified in January 2007 that their properties would be affected by the resumptions, with a promise to receive more information the following month. Six months later they finally received another letter containing no new information. In August 2007, they were told they could expect a notice of intention to resume in early 2008. Ten months later, in June 2008, still without the promised notice, they were informed that the resumption process had been delayed and would now start in July 2008. Last month Queensland Transport informed them of another delay and told them to wait another few months—until some time in early 2009—to receive their official notices, with the resumption process to then take another six months to complete.

The Beattie-Bligh government has delivered these small businesses two years of excuses, delays, heartache and ruined businesses. The shopping centre is falling into disrepair because no-one wants to spend money on something that is soon to be demolished, and customer numbers have dwindled which is affecting their bottom lines. It is time for a fair go and some honesty.