



Speech by

Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR STAFFORD

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AGED CARE

Mr HINCHLIFFE (Stafford—ALP) (10.12 pm): The Bligh government is serious about planning and building for south-east Queensland's future. It was Labor that developed the South East Queensland Regional Plan and it was Labor that committed to a 20-year infrastructure plan. And it was this government that put all planning in Queensland under one department and brought it together with infrastructure to ensure that what we promise gets delivered. But I did notice recent promises by the Lord Mayor of Brisbane about his future approach to planning to provide adequate aged-care facilities in Brisbane that do not match his previous actions. On 29 February, he told the *Courier-Mail* that he wanted to offer incentives to developers and changes to zoning laws to ensure enough aged-care facilities could be built so elderly people would not have to move away from family and friends.

Indeed the lord mayor said, 'What we see happening now is our elderly population, who have lived in Brisbane all of their lives, having to move to the city fringes away from their families, their friends and their trusted doctors.' To that end, he has committed to establish 'an "Aged Care Taskforce" to ensure that there are better housing options for our ageing population'. For the information of members, I table an extract from a campaign pamphlet for him and his so-called 'Can-do' Councillor Norm Wyndham.

Tabled paper: Document entitled 'Listening to you and getting action to fix our important issues'.

These are worthy goals and the state government is looking into similar proposals, but I am not sure about the sincerity of the lord mayor's comments—said in the middle of an election campaign, too. I doubt the sincerity, because when push came to shove and Blue Care proposed to build an aged-care facility at Stafford Heights in my electorate, Campbell Newman and Norm Wyndham turned them down. Clearly, keeping elderly mums and dads close to home matters everywhere except Brisbane's north side. The proposal would have helped address the exact problem the lord mayor identified two weeks ago, but he said no. Thankfully, the state government called in the project in 2006 and approved its construction last year.

So like his public transport promises, like his tunnel promises, like the Hale Street Bridge, the lord mayor is out there saying one thing but doing another and getting the state government to clean up the problems he leaves behind. That is why voters in Brisbane this Saturday cannot afford to give Campbell Newman and his team of faceless Liberals a blank cheque. Voters should support my friend Greg Rowell and his team of active and involved local councillors and candidates. On the other hand, this government is serious about planning for the whole community, for the future and for the vulnerable in our community. Our commitment is year round and not just when it is the popular thing to say.