



Speech by  
**Ronan Lee**

**MEMBER FOR INDOOROOPILLY**

Hansard Tuesday, 10 February 2009

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### **CSIRO RESEARCH CENTRE, LONG POCKET**

**Mr LEE** (Indooroopilly—GRN) (9.46 pm): I rise in the House tonight to put on the record my serious concerns about plans by the federal Labor government to sell the 7.2 hectare CSIRO research centre at Long Pocket, Indooroopilly. There is simply not enough riverfront land remaining in Brisbane that is accessible to the community and is in community hands. It is important that we not let the federal government present this sale as a *fait accompli*. It is important that the community maintains some control over riverfront land as Brisbane develops.

I believe in five, 10 and 15 years time people will look back at any decision to sell the CSIRO facility in Long Pocket and believe it to have been incredibly short-sighted. Quite simply, the federal government should not allow this sale to proceed. I will be working with the local community to stop this sale and keep this site in community hands.

The site in particular has some significant environmental value locally. It is part of an important wildlife corridor and is near a large flying fox colony in Long Pocket. I will be working with the local community, in particular the Long Pocket residents association, on this. I worked closely with them when we stopped the natural sciences precinct from proceeding when it was bad for the community. I worked closely with the Long Pocket residents association when we stopped Mirvac inappropriately developing a large condominium complex at a site that was simply not served and will never be served by public transport.

I note, however, that while Labor proposes to sell the site—and I believe it should not be sold—the LNP candidate for Indooroopilly, Scott Emerson, is having two bob each way. He states on his web site that he wants the sale to be frozen. He wants the federal government to take its time and chat with the community about this outrageous proposal as if in some way talking to community about an outrage is going to make the community feel less outraged.

I had a look at Mr Emerson's employer's web site—Crook Publicity. Scott Emerson is a polished PR professional. He works for Crook Publicity. I note on its client list that it cites, among other developers, Devine. I want to make sure that companies like Devine do not get an opportunity to bid on this site.

One cannot serve two masters. One cannot serve the development industry and serve the community. One cannot serve business interests that have an interest in making money out of doing things that are not in interests of the community and at the same time tell the community one is looking out for them. I am 100 per cent committed to looking after my community; Labor is not committed because it wants to sell this site, and neither is Mr Emerson.