



Speech by  
**Simon Finn**

**MEMBER FOR YEERONGPILLY**

Hansard Thursday, 12 February 2009

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## **YEERONGPILLY ELECTORATE**

**Mr FINN** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (8.36 pm): It is a sad day in Australian politics when we see the Liberals and Nationals in the Senate knock back a stimulus package brought down by a Labor government which is aimed at stimulating our economy and helping ordinary Australians and ordinary Queenslanders. What we see by the decision of those in the Senate today is an attempt to deny people on medium incomes a significant amount of money as well as a significant injection of funding into community infrastructure. I suggest the member for Burdekin consider what could have happened if she wants to talk about infrastructure spending in Queensland. I am certain that we will get there, but we need to remember that if every Queensland senator had voted for that package then the infrastructure funds would be flowing tonight.

**Mr Wallace:** Where was Barnaby Joyce?

**Mr FINN:** Where were a number of Queensland senators. They were on the other side of the equation.

We are in an election year in Queensland. There is a community expectation that candidates will be out campaigning. Most of the expectation in my community though is that we will campaign with honesty, we will not run unnecessary scare campaigns in the community and we will stand on our records or give a direction forward for our community and our state.

We heard this morning about the Nationals and Liberals running scare campaigns on the children's hospital. The state opposition is prepared to say that it opposes budget honesty. There is a lack of honesty in the LNP.

What we have seen from the National-Liberal candidate in Yeerongpilly is a campaign that is based on significant untruths. Normally I would not stand up here and give it any credence. What we see is a brochure that tells the community that there is an intention to close Yeronga TAFE and sell off the land that the Yeronga High School is on. That is not true. That is a fabrication.

The problem with a fabrication like that is that it causes a crisis of confidence in our schools. We have two families that are talking about taking their children out of the school because they are concerned about its future. This is the irresponsibility of a dishonest local campaign. I say to the school and the school community: Yeronga High School is here to stay. It has a growing enrolment. It offers a good academic program. There were three OP1s last year. The school is on track and growing and here to stay.

I will quickly touch on another one of the candidate's claims. The member for Mansfield would like this one. My opponent is claiming that there is a plan to reintroduce a truck route through Salisbury. The true story is that there is no truck route to reintroduce. This government has removed trucks from the Brisbane urban corridor and introduced noise barriers along the Brisbane urban corridor. It is simply a fabrication. The LNP needs to campaign honestly and not run scare campaigns.