



Speech by

Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

Hansard Tuesday, 17 August 2010

COORPAROO, MYER BUILDING

Hon. CR DICK (Greenslopes—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Industrial Relations) (12.27 pm): I am pleased to advise the parliament of an exciting new development for the Coorparoo junction area. As many members would be aware—particularly those from the south side of Brisbane—the junction at the intersection of Old Cleveland Road and Cavendish Road is the heart of the suburb of Coorparoo. I grew up on Brisbane's southside at Holland Park, one of the many vibrant suburbs in the electorate of Greenslopes, which I am now privileged to represent in this parliament. As a boy I can remember going to the junction with my parents to shop at Myer at Coorparoo. In those days, the area was a vibrant commercial hub.

Since then, shopping trends have changed and we have seen the growth of major suburban shopping centres such as the Westfield complexes at Carindale and Garden City. The departure of major tenants from the old Myer building at Coorparoo meant that this jewel in the crown of the Coorparoo business precinct lost some of its lustre. News earlier this month indicates that this jewel is about to shine again.

The revitalisation of the Coorparoo junction will take a massive step forward later this year when new markets open in the old Myer building. These markets, which will operate four days a week—from Thursday to Sunday—should boost the local economy and increase commercial activity in the area. The new operators, businessmen Frank Dragani and Tony Abi-Fares, have signed a lease with the Department of Transport and Main Roads to operate the new markets for two years, with an option to renew. The markets will complement existing retail activities in the Coorparoo junction precinct, selling fresh produce such as fish and delicatessen items, gourmet produce and a range of variety items from budget fashions through to specialty clothing. This is a very exciting development and has been welcomed by southside residents, particularly those from areas such as Coorparoo and Camp Hill who use this area regularly. I have been aware of the community's views on the vacant Myer building for some time. Reactivating and re-energising the Coorparoo junction has been one of my top priorities since my election as the state member for Greenslopes last year.

I am very pleased that we have been able to work with the local business community, such as local business leaders Cass Conwell and Peter Weiss, and the Department of Transport and Main Roads to arrange this new lease. I also wish to acknowledge the support of the transport minister, Rachel Nolan, in making this new retail development a reality.

Any redevelopment of the old Myer building will complement the next stage of the Eastern Busway, which will include a busway station in the Coorparoo junction area. I firmly believe that the Coorparoo Junction site has the potential to support a mixed residential, retail and commercial development, making Coorparoo the southside's own urban village and bringing further vibrancy to the area. A development of this nature would also fit in well with the Brisbane City Council's Eastern Corridor Renewal Strategy. As happens throughout our city, the government wishes to work constructively with the Brisbane City Council to revitalise Coorparoo junction and to work in partnership with the council to explore the prospects of a transport associated development on the site.

I also note that the traffic intersection of Old Cleveland Road and Cavendish Road is of concern to local residents. While these roads are council controlled roads and the management of this intersection is the responsibility of the Brisbane City Council, I am aware that the council is working on options to improve the safety of the intersection for pedestrians and motorists.

The state government is also continuing to work with the federal government and in particular with Infrastructure Australia to seek funding for the next stage of the Eastern Busway beyond Main Avenue at Coorparoo. Obviously, the government's long-term goal is to complete the Eastern Busway so that it will extend from the University of Queensland, through to Coorparoo, Camp Hill, Carina and Carindale, then beyond to Capalaba. Already stage 1 of this project, from the Eleanor Schonell Bridge at Dutton Park to the South East Busway at Buranda, has been completed at a cost of \$366 million.

We have now started on the \$465 million second stage between Buranda and Main Avenue. This stage is scheduled for completion by early 2012 and will make an enormous difference to travel times for commuters going to the city or the University of Queensland, particularly residents of the electorate of Greenslopes. At the moment, funding for the next stage of the busway, from Main Avenue to Bennetts Road, is yet to be secured. This will be an expensive part of the overall Eastern Busway project. Early estimates indicate that it could cost upwards of \$800 million as construction work will require tunnelling as well as cut-and-cover engineering work.

The Eastern Busway will bring long-term gains to the community. I will continue to work with all levels of government to ensure the next stages are funded, built and delivered for the community. Regardless of the timing of the next stage of the busway, Coorparoo junction will always be a focal point for residents of the Greenslopes electorate. That is why the announcement of these new markets is so exciting. Along with other residents, I look forward to visiting the markets once they open for business.