



Speech by

Jarrod Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Hansard Wednesday, 10 March 2010

PALMVIEW STRUCTURE PLAN

Mr BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (9.06 pm): I rise this evening to address the issue of growth on the Sunshine Coast and the state government's responsibility to manage this growth. Can I start by saying what an appalling job the state is doing. I refer specifically tonight to the Palmview Structure Plan issued by the state government last Friday. This plan sets an alarming precedent for the future planning of growth on the Sunshine Coast.

Firstly, I acknowledge that we require development on the Sunshine Coast to support the economy and to support jobs. Construction workers make up 12 per cent of all jobs on the Sunshine Coast. However, development that is planned needs to strike a balance between being sustainable, affordable and supported with the relevant infrastructure to ensure that the standard of living we enjoy is maintained and the environment is conserved. The Palmview Structure Plan does not live up to these expectations.

The state government's plan disregards many of the sustainable planning measures included in the original position paper presented by council. Of those, the population maximum for the development of 13,830 is now expected to be the minimum number of residents living in the new development. To achieve this, the 100-metre buffers around significant wetlands have been reduced to 50 metres to squeeze in a further 825 dwellings. The government has also cut the intra-urban break buffer between the development and the Bruce Highway from 200 metres to 80 metres. This will ensure that noise reduction walls will be built, completely disregarding the original vision for the development that the visual amenity be preserved.

The removal of other sustainable efficiency measures in the revised structure plan will ultimately ensure that, while they may be cheaper to build, houses will be more expensive to run. The structure plan for this development barely resembles what was initially put forward by the council. The people of the Sunshine Coast accept that development is good in the circumstances. They do, however, want this development to be effectively planned and, more importantly, sustainably planned to ensure that the natural environment we all enjoy is conserved for generations to come as the population squeeze continues.

For goodness sake, how many times do I have to reinforce the message to the minister that the Sippy Downs community has major issues with the proposed green link and there being no western highway access? Council and the state keep saying, 'We're listening.' Well, clearly you are not. The Palmview plan is merely a shell of its former self. It is an attempt by this government to cram as many people into a development with scant regard for the sustainability of the Sunshine Coast region. On paper it all looks nice—green links, eastern access to the hospital site. My question to the minister is: who is going to pay for all of this? Main Roads has told me that it is not paying for the eastern link. Who is going to pay? Is the state going to pay for all of these great things on paper?

What we have here is a fancy set of lines that appeals to planet utopia, but we know what is going to happen. We know that these links and roads are not funded, so the outcome will be that 14,000 people will converge on the existing Sippy Downs community. That is not acceptable. Minister, can you guarantee that you will actually listen and respect the views and wishes of the residents of the Sippy Downs and Sunshine Coast community?

(Time expired)