



Speech by

Mrs Julie Attwood

MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY

Hansard Thursday, 19 August 2010

MOUNT OMMANEY SHOPPING CENTRE

Mrs ATTWOOD (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (5.09 pm): Recently, I was privileged to be asked to officially open the final stage of the development of the Mount Ommaney shopping centre, firstly, in my role as state member for Mount Ommaney and, secondly, as a fellow tenant in the centre since September last year, having to move from unsatisfactory conditions at another centre in the area. I want to congratulate Bryan Hayes, the managing director of AMP Capital Shopping Centres, on having the foresight to plan and implement the construction of one of Brisbane's iconic shopping experiences. This expanded centre serves as a lasting legacy to those men and women who established the initial centre over 30 years ago. I remember the time when the Mount Ommaney centre changed its name from the Centenary Shopping Centre. The centre has grown from around 15 stores to over 170 today, providing a wide range of goods and services to people in the western suburbs.

In Australia we are lucky enough to have the freedom to express ourselves and live life in our own very different ways. Most of us have not been divided by war or been driven from our ancestral homelands. We are free to associate with whom we choose, have different beliefs and criticise the use of excessive power and authority. In Queensland's multicultural society here in the western suburbs we see the embodiment of that freedom. This is also true of our shopping experiences. We can shop when and where we like and this shopping centre has grown because consumers see the broad range of goods, the great value that is offered by retailers at the centre and also the ease of access, friendly atmosphere and, significantly, the support given by centre management and the retailers to our community. Queenslanders come from many different cultural backgrounds and the range of quality outlets and products available at the shopping centre reflects that. From the food court to the fashion stores, from the health and beauty retailers to the major tenants and all the stores in between, the Mount Ommaney shopping centre provides both enjoyment and employment for hundreds of shoppers and workers every day, particularly those local employees.

When I talk of the generous support given by centre management and the retailers to my local community, I immediately think of the longstanding support to the Centenary mall walkers and the Heart Foundation to improve residents' health, the availability of justice of the peace services, the revegetation and Clean Up Australia Day activities, business owners like Price Attack supporting the Mount Ommaney Special School, the recent formation of the Avant Garde Women's Business Group, the centre helping the CREATE Foundation, ShopMobility, education expos, the free entertainment for children during the school holidays and the list goes on and on.

Businesses at the shopping centre know that community support is reciprocated: if they support us, shoppers will support them. I think this is one reason the centre's businesses have not suffered as much as others during the recent financial crisis. Now more than 30 years since the centre first opened, I believe that the Mount Ommaney shopping centre is passionate about my community, is committed to reducing the environmental impact of its activities and fosters a sense of mutual belonging and support. The centre seeks to exist in harmony with its neighbourhood.