



Speech by

Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR STAFFORD

Hansard Thursday, 19 August 2010

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Fitzgibbon Chase

Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (10.06 am): Earlier this month the first residents moved into the Fitzgibbon Chase housing estate on Brisbane's north side, an exciting affordable housing estate created by the Bligh government's Urban Land Development Authority. Three families have moved in so far, just 14 months since the construction started. They are the first of up to 3,000 residents expected to call Fitzgibbon Chase home by 2014. This urban development area is already proving to be a success story for affordable housing and sustainable living, where all dwellings have a minimum six-star energy rating. The development even received EnviroDevelopment accreditation through the Urban Development Institute of Australia, recognising Fitzgibbon Chase's innovative use of open green space, energy efficient housing design, advanced waste minimisation and recycling strategies and extensive ecological management plans for the future. In addition to this, the federal Labor government is also helping us work towards a greener future.

Recently the Minister for Climate Change, Energy Efficiency and Water, Senator Penny Wong, visited the site with member for Petrie and keen Fitzgibbon Chase supporter Yvette D'Ath, and announced a massive \$7.13 million investment for water recycling at Fitzgibbon Chase. This grant will be invested in two major projects to provide the residential development with approximately 133 million litres of new water supplies and supply 84 per cent of the development's non-drinking water needs. This is the way of the future. This is the water smart, sustainable, green and affordable vision Labor has for Queensland and the Gillard government has for Australia. In fact, of the dwellings being constructed in Fitzgibbon, 66 per cent will be sold at or below the median house price for Brisbane. This will help young people into the housing market. It will allow more key workers, like nurses and tradespeople, to live closer to their workplaces in our city, easily accessing quality public transport at the neighbouring Carseldine station. This is what vibrant, sustainable and smart cities are all about.

The Bligh government said that it would deliver affordable housing for the people of Queensland and, along with the Gillard government, that is what we are doing. Frighteningly, Tony Abbott does not believe in affordable housing. He does not even see a role for the federal government in city planning. He is not interested in delivering the services cities need to be vibrant, affordable and liveable.

In his personal manifesto *Battlelines*, Mr Abbott describes public transport in Australia as 'a hideous drain on the public purse'. He states—

There just aren't enough people wanting to go from a particular place to a particular destination at a particular time to justify any vehicle larger than a car and cars need roads.

How lovely life would be if we all lived on the north shores of Sydney. However, Mr Abbott, we do not. Tony Abbott has eyes only for Sydney, but when I look at broader Sydney I see a mess. Unfortunately, Mr Abbott cannot look beyond his North Shore lifestyle and appreciate the real issues affecting Australians. He is a real risk that Queenslanders just cannot afford.