



Speech by

Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR STAFFORD

Hansard Wednesday, 27 October 2010

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Structure Planning

Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (10.23 am): The Bligh government is planning for Queensland's future. We are doing so by working with local governments to progress structure plans to provide additional housing in the face of growth. In September the Gold Coast City Council formally adopted the Coomera structure plan after successfully working with the state government, the community and stakeholders to plan for the region. This means that construction on new homes for the Gold Coast could begin in coming months. Similar processes are underway for Mount Peter south of Cairns and Maroochydore and Palmview on the Sunshine Coast. On 12 October I conditionally approved the Sunshine Coast Regional Council's draft structure plan for Palmview which has the potential to deliver 8,000 much needed dwellings. Housing affordability is a real issue in the area. Bankwest data released in July indicated that Sunshine Coast homes were the most expensive in the state and the council's own Sunshine Coast Affordable Living Strategy 2010-2020 has indicated that the region is in crisis. Planning for the future will ensure that people born on the coast and key workers like nurses and teachers can afford to live there.

Good planning also safeguards sites unsuitable for development. That is why I have asked the council to rethink the draft public transport corridors included in its draft Palmview structure plan. My conditional approval included the redesign of the east-west Greenlink public transport corridor to avoid the Birtinya Wetlands, a sensitive ecosystem home to endangered species the Wallum rocket frog and the Wallum froglet. I have also asked that the council better consider the 1,600 public submissions on the draft route of the north-south Greenlink public transport corridor. I note the Sunshine Coast Regional Council yesterday resolved to expedite resolution of these issues, and I congratulate it on its prompt response. The final Palmview structure plan will include public transport corridors in suitable locations and provide a significant contribution towards addressing the housing shortage and low levels of housing affordability on the Sunshine Coast. The Bligh government is planning for tomorrow's Queensland by boosting housing affordability and supporting construction jobs.