




Speech by

Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

Hansard Thursday, 1 December 2011

SHOPPING CENTRES, PAID PARKING; ERROR IN ANSWER TO QUESTION; SCHOOLS, SECURITY

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Greenslopes—ALP) (Minister for Education and Industrial Relations) (3.16 pm): I rise this afternoon to speak about an issue of great concern to the people of the electorate of Greenslopes. In recent months we have seen shopping centres across Brisbane introduce paid parking in their car parks. Not only is this unfair and inconvenient for shoppers; it creates traffic chaos for local residents.

This practice must be stopped. Shopping centres are an important part of any modern community. They are more than just places for shopping; they house essential services like libraries, council offices, Medicare centres and banks. They have entertainment precincts with cinemas and restaurants and they are also public transport hubs. Paid parking makes it more difficult and more expensive for people accessing these services. This is why I am taking a stand for pensioners, students, seniors, people with disabilities—in fact, everyone in the electorate of Greenslopes.

The Minister for Local Government, Mr Paul Lucas, has already highlighted the fact that the Brisbane City Council has the ability to stop this practice. Crown law advice provided to the Brisbane City Council by the state government on 15 November 2011 explains that the council can introduce a temporary local planning instrument that would stop paid parking at existing shopping centres. The Moreton Bay Regional Council is doing this as a matter of priority but the Brisbane City Council refuses to act.

I call on Lord Mayor Graham Quirk to show some leadership on this issue and stand up for the people of Brisbane. For too long the Brisbane City Council has ducked and weaved on this issue, and the people of Brisbane are suffering. This week we have seen a complete absence of leadership from Campbell Newman and the LNP in the state political arena, and now we are seeing a similar failure of leadership by Graham Quirk and his LNP council colleagues.

The people of the Greenslopes electorate want a council that is prepared to stand up for them, but all they get is a council that is shirking its responsibility. That is why I am organising a petition to call on the council to implement a temporary local planning instrument to stop the spread of paid parking at shopping centres. I will be providing households in my electorate with a copy of the petition. Alternatively, people can sign the petition or pick up a copy at my electorate office or at one of my mobile offices or they can email me directly. If the Lord Mayor thinks he can just stick his head in the sand and ignore the people of Brisbane, he is sadly mistaken.

While I am on my feet I want to correct an answer I gave in response to a question without notice from the member for Chatsworth earlier today when I inadvertently stated there had been 31 arson incidents at Queensland schools this financial year. There have in fact been only three arson incidents.