



Speech by

## Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR STAFFORD

Hansard Thursday, 25 August 2011

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### AIRPORT LINK

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Employment, Skills and Mining) (3.58 pm): Gordon Park residents are upset and angry about a letter sent late last week from local councillor Fiona King, and so am I. Councillor King's letter is full of mistruths about the temporary closure of Richmond Street where it meets Stafford Road. Worse still, Councillor King is playing politics with the good people of Gordon Park and I would like to set the record straight.

The temporary closure of Richmond Street, required as part of the Airport Link/Northern Busway project, is bound to cause a level of inconvenience for local residents. However, the alternative would be an extensive, very noisy set of night works.

It is precisely because of this inconvenience that Councillor King has been given a number of briefings on the road closure, has been kept fully informed of the planned closure and has been given the opportunity to have input into the construction program—in the same way I have been as the local state member. It is also disappointing that Councillor King in her letter deliberately withheld the fact that her council, the Brisbane City Council, approved the road closure. It was a King hit that they did not deserve. It is not the first time Councillor King has engaged in what can only be described as deceitful behaviour when it comes to this project.

It is now well over a year since I wrote to the then lord mayor, Campbell Newman, and Councillor King raising legitimate concerns over the council's inappropriate classification of Richmond, Bradshaw and Thistle streets in Gordon Park. I asked them to give serious consideration to reclassifying those streets as residential roads. It is a simple solution at no cost to council. Better still for local residents, their local streets would be identified as being for local traffic only and not suitable for heavy vehicles. It is now very apparent that Councillor King made no effort whatsoever to do anything about this—nothing at all.

I am sad to say that Councillor King's failure to get the council to fix this problem is symptomatic of her ongoing failure to deliver even the simplest, most basic services to the residents of Gordon Park. They are still waiting for traffic calming, despite repeated requests to council. Councillor King should stop playing politics and start delivering for our local community.