




Speech by

Peter Wellington

MEMBER FOR NICKLIN

Hansard Thursday, 12 July 2012

CALOUNDRA SOUTH, DEVELOPMENT

 **Mr WELLINGTON** (Nicklin—Ind) (3.39 pm): Last night I spoke about the need for this government to answer important questions surrounding its involvement in the approval of the development of the new plan for Caloundra South city, which is to be built on the Sunshine Coast by a private developer. When the last state government took this matter out of the hands of the local council it justified its decision by claiming that there was significant unmet housing need on the Sunshine Coast, the council was going too slow in processing the application and the only way the government could provide affordable housing was to take the matter out of the council's hands and make the decision itself. In due course it handed it over to the Urban Land Development Authority. I and many on the Sunshine Coast believe that the grounds the previous Labor government used to justify its decision were simply a furphy. Many of us will surmise the real reason, but I will not go into that here.

I note that all of the members representing the Sunshine Coast are either ministers in the new government or the Speaker. I challenge them and the Premier to make available the important documents which will show what involvement this government has had in the final approval of this new Caloundra South city. We want to see how this new government is so different from the last. We want to see the transparency and the openness. I listened intently to the Minister for Local Government talk about the new direction and the empowering of local councils. I believe that is wonderful, and I support the minister 100 per cent.

We on the Sunshine Coast would like to see the production of those documents to determine the government's involvement in the final stages of the approval of this new Caloundra South city because we believe it is significant. It is very simple; that is all we ask. I propose to nominate one person to be the contact person—we do not need to have a whole team—and that would be one of the journalists from the *Sunshine Coast Daily*, Mr Bill Hoffman. I noticed that last night the Attorney-General burred up as soon as I mentioned his name. I do not know what has been going on there. I thought the Attorney-General was a supporter of Bill Hoffman's tireless willingness to get in there and pursue issues that needed to be pursued.

My plea to the Premier is simple. It does not matter whether it is the minister or an assistant minister: please make all the documents available to Mr Bill Hoffman so that he can sit down and analyse this government's involvement in the final approval of this new Caloundra South city which is going to be built on the Sunshine Coast. I do not think it is an unreasonable request. We want to see how this government is different. I support the minister's passion. I used to be a councillor as well. I believe the last government did a lot of things wrong with regard to taking power away from the councils. So let us re-empower councils, but let us also see those documents. It would be great for that meeting to occur before the resumption of parliament in a couple of weeks time.