



Speech by


**Hon. Phil Reeves**

**MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD**

Hansard Thursday, 16 February 2012

---

## **WESTFIELD GARDEN CITY SHOPPING CENTRE, PAID PARKING**

 **Hon. PG REEVES** (Mansfield—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety and Minister for Sport) (3.13 pm): My local community has spoken loud and clear against the introduction of paid parking at Westfield Garden City Shopping Centre. Since late last year I have received over 2,200 messages of support from local residents calling on the Brisbane City Council to use its power to block paid parking. The Attorney-General has provided Brisbane City Council with crown law advice explaining how the council can block Westfield's introduction of paid parking. However, despite this advice and despite the community's request, both the LNP Lord Mayor of Brisbane and the LNP councillor for Wishart have refused to stop Westfield from charging for parking.

Moreton Bay Regional Council has announced that it will use its powers to block paid parking on behalf of its local residents and Logan City Council has announced that it will follow suit. So why does the LNP refuse to act in Brisbane? Why does the LNP choose to side with Westfield instead of Brisbane residents? Why does the LNP councillor for Wishart ward want me to cease my campaign against paid parking? I have no intention of stopping my campaign. I have received letters from the LNP Lord Mayor and the LNP councillor for Wishart stating their refusal to stop paid parking. In contrast, I have received letters from both the Labor lord mayoral candidate, Ray Smith, and the Labor candidate for Wishart, Natalie Peterson, pledging to stop paid parking. I table each of those letters.

*Tabled paper:* Bundle of letters regarding paid parking at Westfield Garden City [\[6533\]](#).

The tens of thousands of local residents who shop at Garden City should not have to start paying for parking. Locals, including my own family, do their shopping there, catch up for coffee with friends in the town square, go to the movies, the library or hairdressers. We have been doing this for years and we would like to keep on supporting Garden City, but we do not want to start paying up to \$20 to park there. Not only would paid parking at Garden City be a slap in the face for local communities; it would create parking chaos in the local streets of Upper Mt Gravatt, Wishart and MacGregor. Why will the LNP not stop paid parking at Garden City?