




Speech by

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MORANBAH, WORK CAMPS

 **Mr KNUTH** (Dalrymple—KAP) (11.14 pm): This morning I questioned the Premier regarding his commitment to give local councils greater planning autonomy. I have asked the Premier to call in the ULDA approval of a 3,200-worker camp on prime residential land at Moranbah. The Moranbah community is surrounded by mining leases. Its residential expansion is limited and it is paramount that this land is used for family housing purposes. We have seen social disintegration occurring in Moranbah because of a large fly-in fly-out workforce and massive increases in single men's camps, which was even revealed on *Four Corners*. However, in his response, the Premier avoided the real issues.

In his reply, the Premier stated the obvious fact that mining communities need mining camps. He said that he wanted to make that very clear. Being the sitting member for the area surrounding Moranbah, I say that the debate is not about camps or whether they are needed in a mining region. This debate is about whether this development should proceed on one of the last remaining portions of prime residential land. The government must support the community's plea to use the land for family housing purposes.

Family housing development is the key to attracting and retaining more families in the mining communities. There are many other suitable places for a camp in the area. It is draconian to override local elected representatives and allow this development to go ahead when it could literally destroy the long-term viability and the social fabric of the community.

This development has been put in over the top of the local community all the way from Brisbane. The Premier has tried to blame the previous council, but I am glad to inform the Premier that there is a new council. They are pro mining, pro family housing development and pro raising their children in a family orientated community, and they want to get things moving quickly. The ULDA has discarded the community and local leaders with a 'George Street knows best' attitude. The developer, MAC Group, is owned by American oil industry giant Oil States International. It is not a local developer looking to work with residents and local council but a foreign owned, multinational company that does not give a damn about the social implications of a mining camp's location.

I ask the Premier: would he like to raise his family next to 3,200 mineworkers, a majority of whom are single men, given the associated social, psychological and health issues raised in the federal inquiry into fly-in fly-out operations? The Premier has the power to call in this development, bring the stakeholders together and find another camp site that does not use family residential land. This government may have been very critical of the ULDA in the past, but if the Premier does not call in this development he will own the legacy of the Brisbane-knows-best approach—the failed approach of the last government. If the Premier is going to keep his election commitment and be true to his word he must call in this development, consult with council and the community and allow this land to be used to attract and retain the families needed to keep our regions strong.