




Speech By
Ros Bates

MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Reedy Creek, Quarry

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (11.28 am): I rise today on a matter of public interest: the proposed quarry at Reedy Creek. In my time as the member for Mudgeeraba I have never come across any issue that has caused such passion in a broad range of people within my electorate. For those of us living near the proposed site, myself included, the threat that this quarry represents to our investment in our homes, our health and our ability to enjoy our own homes has inspired us to fight this quarry with all the motivation we can muster. Before the election my Gold Coast colleagues and I made a commitment to fight the quarry on behalf of residents. I continue to honour that commitment, as I do all my commitments that I make to my constituents. The Deputy Premier continues to honour this. As promised, he has delivered a review of the KRA designation of the site and continues to work on a South East Queensland Regional Plan review.

I have been formally invited to attend a meeting organised by the Stop the Gold Coast Quarry Association, a group driven solely by its desire to protect its own community, to be held at St Andrews Lutheran College in Tallebudgera Valley on Thursday night. I table the letter.

Tabled paper: Invitation to attend a public meeting in relation to the Gold Coast quarry [\[2641\]](#).

The meeting has been called to explain to concerned residents, of which I am sure there will be many in attendance, how to best make the case that this quarry is not in the best interests of the surrounding residents. I will be there, as I am sure will be the member for Burleigh, the member for Currumbin and certainly the member for Mermaid Beach, because we are all concerned on behalf of our residents. I will also be attending any other meeting called by that group of motivated citizens as we address the issues.

Boral has released the environmental impact statement for the proposed quarry at Reedy Creek and it is now available for public comment. I stress that it is the coordinator-general who will make the final decision as to whether the quarry will go ahead. I believe that the best way to convince him not to approve it is twofold: to make considered and well researched submissions relating to the EIS and, with people power, demonstrate that this project is widely opposed by the people whom it will affect the most. The first strategy will be delivered by groups such as Stop the Gold Coast Quarry.

I know that the Gold Coast City Council has allocated significant funding of approximately \$120,000 to develop its own submission, but it is the locals who must get behind stopping the quarry and put in their own submissions to leave the coordinator-general in doubt as to the desires of the residents. I encourage all residents to do so. I have direct mailed more than 2,000 of my constituents, asking that they make a submission and have supplied them with the appropriate method for so doing. In the period of just one week, already more than 500 people I had encouraged have already made such a submission. I now table that document, which already has been signed and posted by more than 500 Mudgeeraba constituents.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 8 May 2013, from the member for Mudgeeraba, Ms Ros Bates MP, concerning the environmental impact statement released by Boral regarding the Gold Coast quarry [\[2642\]](#).

That means that more than one-quarter of all Reedy Creek enrolled residents oppose the quarry. Considering my last mail-out on this issue attracted a more than 75 per cent response rate, I am expecting responses to continue to flow. That figure is only inclusive of concerned residents within the Mudgeeraba electorate. No doubt, there is significant opposition within surrounding electorates, with Tallebudgera Valley and Old Burleigh Town both close to the proposed quarry site.

Not only are the residents in close proximity to the quarry opposed to the project, no member of the Gold Coast City Council is on record as supporting the quarry. Many are on record as being strongly opposed, including the Mayor of the Gold Coast, Tom Tate. Councillor Daphne McDonald attended the last meeting held by the Stop the Gold Coast Quarry Association to state her opposition and I have no doubt she will continue to be a strong supporter of the will of the residents.

No Gold Coast member of the Queensland parliament is on record as supporting the quarry. Many, including my colleagues the members for Burleigh, Currumbin and Mermaid Beach, who have some residents within their electorates who will be affected, are also on record in opposition to the project. They too have attended public meetings held by the Stop the Gold Coast Quarry group. My federal colleague, the member for McPherson, Karen Andrews MP, is also on record as opposing the quarry. In the limited time we have during the EIS comment submission period, we must make our case against the quarry. I urge the coordinator-general to take the passionate views of the public into account when he considers the future of this project.

The other day when we had a press conference with the Stop the Gold Coast Quarry Association at Reedy Creek, I was amused when a federal candidate for McPherson tried to grandstand on an issue that has absolutely no relevance to the federal government. Certainly the federal government is not the one that will make the decision about whether this quarry goes ahead. Frankly, I thought it was quite amazing that someone would grandstand on an issue that they know nothing about; someone who has not been seen or heard from in the past three years that we have been fighting this quarry, unlike Karen Andrews, the federal member for McPherson, who has made representations to the shadow minister for the environment. We will do everything possible to make sure that the coordinator-general gets a very strong message about this quarry.