




Speech By
Ros Bates

MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Reedy Creek, Quarry

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (11.49 am): Last week I attended a meeting organised by the Stop the Gold Coast Quarry group, a group who have been absolutely motivated to protect their community from the establishment of a quarry close to their homes. I have previously spoken in this place about the quarry and I have encouraged members of the public to become part of the environmental impact statement assessment process by putting in a submission to the Coordinator-General.

Today I wish to update the House on the efforts of my constituents in this regard. The community has truly embraced the need to make their views known. I have now received more than 1,000 signed letters which the residents of Reedy Creek and those in the Tallebudgera Valley in my electorate have entrusted me to bring to the attention of the Coordinator-General.

There are only 2,000 people enrolled to vote in Reedy Creek. To be able to say that more than half of the constituents of Reedy Creek were motivated enough by their opposition to the quarry that they were willing to put pen to paper is quite extraordinary. We know that this is only part of the story. Of course, some residents have decided to communicate directly to the Coordinator-General. Some have banded together and submitted EIS responses developed as part of a group. The Gold Coast City Council has produced its own submission as has the Stop the Gold Coast Quarry group. Some may be opposed but have not yet motivated themselves to become part of the process. I urge residents in this position to act now as the cut-off date of 11 June approaches fast.

So how much vehement opposition to this quarry exists in those suburbs surrounding the proposed quarry site? More than 1,000 residents of Reedy Creek have seen fit to record their opposition to the quarry on paper and send it to me. More than 600 people braved one of the wettest and coldest nights we have seen on the Gold Coast for quite a while to turn up to a public meeting to record their opposition to the quarry.

The mayor of the Gold Coast, Tom Tate, is opposed to the quarry. Local councillors Daphne McDonald and Chris Robbins oppose this quarry. My state parliamentary colleagues the members for Burleigh, Currumbin and Mermaid Beach oppose this quarry. Local federal member Karen Andrews opposes this quarry. My office is contacted every day by someone who wants to place on record their opposition to this quarry. I have never met any constituent in person who is not directly linked to the quarry or Boral who is not opposed to this quarry. I have never seen an issue that is so broadly opposed and has such little support. There is a reason for this. There will only be one winner if this project goes ahead and that winner will be Boral.

There will be thousands upon thousands of losers. Firstly, those whose views are damaged by what is essentially the establishment of an open-cut mine in suburbia. There will be those whose health is put at risk through additional dust being launched into the atmosphere by this project. There will be those who have to brave the traffic in Reedy Creek as they go about their day.

I have spoken about Reedy Creek traffic issues in this place recently. There is already a congestion problem. Adding one truck a minute to our local roads will only exacerbate the problem and the solutions being worked on will then not address the existing problem but simply serve to maintain the substandard status quo.

There are those who see the value of their greatest investment fall. There are those affected by noise pollution. But we did see the federal Labor candidate for McPherson come to the meeting and try to link herself to this issue in order to ingratiate herself with the public who are so incensed that this quarry remains a possibility.

Mr Stevens: Labor mates put it up.

Ms BATES: Exactly. I take the interjection from the member for Mermaid Beach. She was right to say at the meeting that this is not a federal issue. I agree with her on one point. So the question then is: what was she actually doing there? The federal government can only intervene if a rare and endangered species is discovered on the site. The only rare and endangered species I have witnessed anywhere near this quarry is the former failed state ALP candidates and would-be ALP candidates who, prior to the election, were nowhere to be seen and who were not willing to stand up for locals and fight against the Bligh government's position on this quarry. They were silent then. That is why they only managed to get 16 per cent of the primary vote in Surfers Paradise and only 17 per cent of the primary vote in Mudgeeraba. Surely they are an endangered species, if not close to extinction.

Amazingly there has been a mysterious development where the species seems to have returned to greater levels. We now have the Labor candidate for McPherson complaining on Facebook that we have not done enough to stop the project and the former failed Labor candidate for Surfers Paradise doing the same. I ask where they were when Labor was kicking this project along. They must remember that we are in this position thanks to Anna Bligh and Andrew Fraser trying to call this project in.

During the election campaign the LNP's state members and candidates did not shy away from addressing this issue. The former failed ALP candidate for Surfers Paradise—who I believe has moved to Burleigh so maybe he is looking at a tilt there because he did not do very well against the member for Surfers Paradise—has not been seen. But apparently now he is claiming to be an affected local. I think at the meeting he called himself Matt from Burleigh. I was very glad that the member for Burleigh thanked the ALP for the question on the night.

(Time expired)