




Speech By
Ros Bates

MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA

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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Reedy Creek, Quarry

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (11.48 am): I rise today to speak on the proposed Gold Coast quarry by Boral in Reedy Creek in my electorate. This quarry will also affect the member for Currumbin's constituents in the Tallebudgera Valley and also the member for Burleigh's constituents. Despite the people of Reedy Creek making it abundantly clear that they did not and they do not want this quarry, the project has been recommended for approval by the Coordinator-General. Members who table petitions get a response in writing from the minister which they forward to all petitioners. The approval process is not held to the same standard—that is, not responding to submissions and classifying almost 4,000 submissions as form letters. These so-called form letter submissions encouraged by myself and the stop the quarry group should have held significant weight. They relayed the concerns of residents who were under no obligation to sign their name to such concerns and the sheer number of submissions should have made it clear how broad the concerns of the community were and still are.

I have heard it said that residents should have known the quarry was a possibility when they were buying into the area. Boral says the project has been on the cards for years. I reject this and my own personal experience is that this is not the case. I personally purchased a property—my own home—in Reedy Creek in 2011 when talk about the quarry was in full swing and not once was the looming quarry raised with me either during the mechanics of the sale or was it discovered during the conveyancing process. I was aware of the issue myself, but not all purchasers would have been as informed as me. If a potential purchaser asks an agent a specific question—for example, if there is a quarry on the cards—they are obligated to tell you. I would argue that this is the wrong way around. Agents should have an obligation to be forthcoming with such information. My personal story is not definitive, but it does reinforce the stories I have had relayed to me by Reedy Creek residents who feel that they have been unfairly treated.

Let us put aside the fact that this quarry was a legacy from Andrew Fraser and look at the conditions placed on the development. Reedy Creek is the most congested suburb in my electorate by a long way. It has suffered from infrastructure not keeping up with population growth. Essentially it is Old Coach Road that is the bottleneck. This is the same road that is now proposed by Boral as the primary entry and exit point from Reedy Creek for its trucks, which are set to trundle down the road at a rate of one truck every minute.

It was a few weeks ago that I was contacted by a constituent living on Bridgeman Drive who said it took her 15 minutes to travel the two kilometres from home to Scottsdale Drive up Old Coach Road. Adding numerous trucks to this road will have an extraordinary impact and the deal struck on behalf of Queenslanders does not include an obligation on Boral to invest in the change to local road infrastructure that will make the most impact—the connection of Bermuda Street to Old Coach Road. Instead, the recommendations are focused around Gold Coast City Council road infrastructure.

Minimal improvements are to be made to Old Coach Road and an obligation on Boral to pay minor maintenance costs has been introduced. We will see minor changes made to Old Coach Road by the introduction of a slip lane for access to the M1 that relate to Queensland state government infrastructure that will cause absolute chaos. This 800-metre stretch of Gold Coast City Council road services three schools, with a total of more than 2,000 students. We really need to ensure that this stretch of road's inadequacies will not completely devastate the lifestyle of Reedy Creek residents and make the dropping of kids at school a nightmare for parents of local students.

My colleagues who have been involved in road projects know how much improvements to road infrastructure costs. The roundabout at Kingsmore Boulevard was going to cost upwards of \$400,000 when first proposed. The cost of connection of Bermuda Street to Old Coach Road—a necessity not only to reduce the impact of the trucks coming from the quarry but a necessity regardless for the residents of Reedy Creek—would be in the millions. So all Queensland taxpayers are duded by this approval because when Reedy Creek comes to a standstill it is the state government that will be expected to foot the bill, and that means every Queenslanders is footing the bill.

This was never the case originally and when I was first briefed on this project the plans included linking the quarry to Bermuda Street. It is now listed only as a possibility in the planning documents. The Coordinator-General also had the opportunity to include this as a requirement for approval but he did not. This is the only change to local road infrastructure that would make an impact that local motorists would notice in the wake of the arrival of hundreds of trucks. The process has failed and the quarry needs to be revisited. If Boral wants to build this quarry against the wishes of residents, it should make a significant contribution to Reedy Creek Road infrastructure. Without the Bermuda Street connection, the quarry's impact will be extraordinary on my local residents. Some 6,500 cars hit that roundabout every morning between 7 and 8.30 and I am not going to have a truck a minute every hour adding to that.