



Speech By  
**Ros Bates**


**MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA**

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**MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Gold Coast Quarry**

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (11.35 am): I rise to update the House on a matter of public interest: the proposed Gold Coast quarry at Reedy Creek. Members would be well aware of the impact this quarry will have on the thousands of residents of Reedy Creek in my electorate and the amount of passion this has sparked across a wide range of Reedy Creek locals united in their opposition to this quarry. As their representative in this place, I stand with them as we continue to undergo the bureaucratic processes related to this quarry which was forced upon us by a tired Labor government in their final term—a mere handful of whom sit on the opposition benches today.

On 29 April my southern Gold Coast colleagues and I attended a meeting of local residents concerned about the quarry who sought to share their views with their local members. Also in attendance was the Leader of the Opposition, alongside her the failed federal Labor candidate for McPherson, now turned state Labor candidate for Burleigh, and the former failed state Labor candidate for Surfers Paradise. The purpose of their attendance was clear: to paint over the shameful legacy of the former Labor government. Of course residents who were looking for genuine solutions and who came to have their voices heard on this important issue for our local area could see through their desperate politics and cynical attempt to fool Reedy Creek locals.

Residents have not forgotten that it was the Bligh government that gave Boral's proposed Gold Coast quarry 'significant project' status and deemed the site a key resource area. Local residents who purchased homes in Reedy Creek for its peace and tranquillity were dismayed that the then Labor government would allow Boral to turn their backyards into a quarry, which would bring with it significant issues including increased noise, large amounts of dust and pressure on our already congested local roads. This is the shameful legacy of the Bligh Labor government, and Reedy Creek residents will not for a minute let those opposite convince them that a vote for Labor is anything but a vote for those who gave us this quarry in the first place.

In contrast, the LNP government has delivered on its promises to place greater levels of scrutiny on the decisions of those opposite and ensure that the processes surrounding the quarry are as stringent as possible. Before the election my Gold Coast colleagues and I made a commitment to local residents that we would ensure proper processes were followed, and that is what we have done. The Deputy Premier delivered on his promise to deliver a review of the key resource area designation and commence a review of the South East Queensland Regional Plan. I recently invited the Deputy Premier to visit the Mudgeeraba electorate to experience firsthand the ways in which the Gold Coast quarry would impact our local area, particularly with regard to local traffic concerns. I thank the Deputy Premier for being so willing to visit my electorate and to see what this quarry will do to Reedy Creek.

Some local residents have expressed concern that the fight may be over and that the quarry may be inevitable. I disagree and I refuse to give up. I am, however, a realist in that as the process continues, with Boral lodging a development application with council less than two weeks ago, victory is becoming less likely. If we are eventually lumped with this quarry due to a flawed system and the actions of those opposite, it will be my job to ensure that we receive significant investment in road infrastructure, we hold Boral to the highest standards with regard to dust and noise mitigation, and we do not allow this quarry to define our local area.

The health and wellbeing of the residents of my electorate is not negotiable. Their lifestyles are not up for discussion. They should not have to worry about the value of their biggest investment going down the drain or their health or whether they will need to get up an hour earlier to get to work or get the kids to school on time. We are already suffering horrible traffic congestion caused by the decisions made by bureaucrats in the former Labor government without vision. I will not let a further lack of vision make things worse. Reedy Creek residents know where I stand. They know that I have always been their voice and that I will always fight for our local area. I encourage the Leader of the Opposition to remember what she experienced and the lessons she learnt on 29 April and know that her cynical attempts to gloss over the legacy of the former Labor government will never resonate with residents of my electorate. Anybody who uses Old Coach Road or exit 84 at Reedy Creek already knows that 6,500 cars use that interchange every morning between 7 and 8.30. Of those cars, 4,000 of them are coming from The Observatory and 2,000 of them actually want to go south and currently use Old Coach Road. There are another 500 cars that come off the motorway and a further 2,000 cars that actually come from the south along Old Coach Road to the tiny little roundabout at Reedy Creek. The fact that the only upgrade at the moment is 800 metres of road for \$1 million which will provide, at this stage, an entrance for trucks to enter the M1 is not the right solution for this area. We need to continue the fight to open up the Bermuda interchange—

*(Time expired)*