




Speech By  
**Brittany Lauga**

**MEMBER FOR KEPPEL**

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Record of Proceedings, 13 October 2016

**MOTION: WEST VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT**

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (6.17 pm): I think it is so hypocritical that those opposite are happy to use call-in powers when they are in government but now that we are in government apparently it is not okay. The member for Chatsworth talked about jobs, investment and confidence in the construction industry, but the member for Chatsworth was obviously not listening this morning when the Deputy Premier spoke about the increase in building approvals in Queensland and the cost of building works in Queensland. That is evidence that the job creation and building investment policies of the Palaszczuk government are working.

There is no question of a conflict of interest here. It is very important to understand the legislative framework we are operating within. Let us be clear: the Deputy Premier is the Minister for Planning and is well within her rights to utilise longstanding ministerial powers that are established by Queensland's planning system. The call-in power is a reserve power that is limited to matters of state interest as defined by the Sustainable Planning Act 2009.

There is no doubt that this 2.6-hectare inner-city site is a significant urban renewal opportunity for the city of Brisbane and that the scale of the proposed development gives rise to a clear state interest. In making this decision the Deputy Premier has acted on clear departmental advice. These state interests are outlined in the call-in notice issued on 14 September 2016 and they relate to our economy, the environment, the South East Queensland Regional Plan, the provision of livable communities and housing supply and diversity.

As a town-planner, I am fortunate to have an understanding of how the planning system actually works. In this context I want to make clear that it is by no means unusual for the call-in power to be contemplated in relation to proposals of this nature. The Deputy Premier has only called in three applications to date, with a current consideration also underway of a proposed call-in regarding flood mitigation works in Roma. In contrast, the member for Callide called in eight applications during his time as planning minister and the sky did not fall in from those call-ins. In particular, let us not forget that the member for Callide called in the Jewel development on the Gold Coast. If we compare West Village to Jewel, we can see many similarities, including both being mixed-use developments that had been approved by the council and subject to a submitter appeal in the courts. Given their demonstrated history in relation to call-ins, their assertion that the Deputy Premier's decision to call in the West Village development is based on political motivation and not due to the significant state interests at play is baseless and goes against their very own practice when in government.

Contrary to their claims, what we know here is that there are significant state interests involved in the proposed West Village development and, as a planner, it is clear to me that the Deputy Premier's decisions relating to past call-ins have been based on planning merit and not on any political motivations, as those opposite are attempting to portray. If we want to talk about conflicts of interest, we should talk about the member for Surfers Paradise when he was education minister bargaining with

local constituents on critical local education infrastructure just to shore up votes in the lead-up to the election. As the Premier has previously said, the legal advice received by the government is clear. There is no conflict of interest and I support this view. To entertain the LNP's unfounded claims about any conflict of interest here is to waste the time of this parliament. It is time for the agency to get on with its technical review of the development to make sure we get the best outcome for this important urban renewal site for the city of Brisbane. I oppose the motion moved and reiterate my continued support for the Deputy Premier in her important role as the Minister for Planning.