




Speech By
Steve Minnikin

MEMBER FOR CHATSWORTH

Record of Proceedings, 13 October 2016

MOTION: WEST VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (6.12 pm): I am very pleased to rise in the chamber to speak in support of the motion moved by the member for Mansfield. The decision to call in the West Village project has hurt confidence and sent the wrong signal to a vital industry that employs hundreds of thousands of Queenslanders. The Deputy Premier, who wants to be Premier, likes to make mention of evidence based research. Let us do just that and look at some material evidence from industry third parties. Housing Industry Association of Queensland Executive Director Warwick Temby said that the combination of policy changes from the state government was hurting the industry at a time when it was 'plateauing'. He said—

It has to be putting jobs and investment at risk.

The UDIA Queensland has also commented on the impact of calling in developments such as the West Village project. The UDIA believes that decisions made to call in the development, including West Village, must ensure any wider impacts to certainty, confidence and investment in Queensland are minimised. It recently stated—

While we have a long standing policy of not advocating for individual developments or developers—in this instance we feel it is important to bring the potential wider consequences of calling in a development to the Queensland Government's ... attention.

I table the document.

Tabled paper: Media release, dated 18 August 2016, from the Urban Development Institute of Australia (Queensland), titled 'Impact of calling in development: West Village submission' [[1868](#)].

Another leading industry peak body, the Property Council, also has major concerns with what the Deputy Premier has done. In response to the West Village call-in decision the Queensland Executive Director of the Property Council, Chris Mountford, tellingly said that call-in powers need to be used extremely judiciously by the relevant minister. He said—

From the industry's perspective, they should be considered an avenue of last resort, to be used when a stalemate or roadblock is preventing a council and developer reaching agreement. This is not the case in this instance.

Small business is also being spooked by changes. The Chamber of Commerce & Industry Queensland believes that a string of antibusiness decisions from the state government is hurting investment and jobs. Recently the CCIQ director of advocacy, Nick Behrens, said that the government could not ignore this mounting concern from the business community. Recent examples cited by the CCIQ include the calling in of Cedar Woods, Mount Emerald Wind Farm, Clare Solar Farm and Pacific View Estate.

As we have already heard today, the recent Property Council survey shows that confidence in the property and construction industry has been in decline since the election of the Palaszczuk government. Today's ANZ-Property Council survey serves as a stark warning to government. Its decisions are undermining industry confidence. The Property Council of Queensland Executive Director, Chris Mountford, said—

To continue to attract investment in job-creating Queensland projects, the local property industry needs confidence.

The latest ANZ-Property Council survey confirms that the Palaszczuk Labor government is taking Queensland backwards. The survey also shows that there is a negative expectation of economic growth for the coming quarter. This is further proof of the Palaszczuk Labor government's short-sighted decisions, which are sapping confidence in Queensland.

Sovereign risk is also a very real issue in this debate. Under Anna 1.0, former premier Anna Bligh, the Fraser Institute Survey of Mining Companies highlighted Queensland's sovereign risk back in the lead-up to the 2012 election. Now under the Premier, Anna 2.0, and her extremely loyal Deputy Premier, the member for South Brisbane, we have the perception of sovereign risk in another sector. Queensland is increasingly being seen as a risky investment decision.

The Labor government has broken an election promise and slapped a new investment tax on the property industry. The Deputy Premier says that she is in favour of urban renewal—as long as it is not in her own backyard, as she desperately needs to appease the Greens. This decision was not made in the best interests of Queensland; it was made in the best interests of the Deputy Premier's election prospects, in a bid to court Greens preferences. At the 2015 election the member for South Brisbane attracted a primary vote of 42.7 per cent but received 91 per cent of Greens preferences from—guess who?—the new Brisbane City Council Greens councillor Jonathan Sri, who, as has been said earlier, recently popped into the gallery to observe the watermelon alliance with the member for South Brisbane. This is all about Greens preferences. This is not transparent. The Deputy Premier has a material interest. She should remove herself.