



Speech By  
**Jarrold Bleijie**


**MEMBER FOR KAWANA**

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Record of Proceedings, 15 February 2017

**MOTION**

**Revocation of Protected Areas**

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (8.16 pm): The part of the revocation motion that I will speak about tonight is the Palmview conservation element, which is the third element of the revocation notice. The reason I will speak to it is that it has been a matter of debate on the Sunshine Coast for some time with respect to the development of the Palmview development which will add 14,000 additional residents in my electorate over the next 10 to 15 years and that Palmview development is progressing.

The debate around the Palmview development started in 2009, shortly after I was elected, and the community has put forward great submissions to get the development where it is now. Of course, with any development comes a responsibility for additional road and infrastructure around the area to ensure that additional traffic will not clog the current traffic particularly in the Sippy Downs area. On that note, I thank the Sippy Downs & District Community Association for the tireless efforts it has put into getting the Palmview development where it is today. This particular conservation park that is being revoked allows the Bruce Highway to the Caloundra Road-Sunshine Motorway upgrade to take place but it also allows for people leaving the new Palmview development access to the Bruce Highway rather than clogging up the Sippy Downs community. On that note, I again thank the Sippy Downs & District Community Association for all their efforts. I thank the Save Exit 190 Group for the campaign they have run recently with respect to these particular developments and the highway upgrade. I also thank the highway action group that was set up a few years back that fought for the inclusion of an exit from the Palmview development. The revocation of this particular part of the conservation park will allow that to happen.

I am very familiar with this part of Pignata Road because my uncle and aunty were the original owners of the Ettamogah Pub, now Aussie World. I lived out there. I caught a bus under the underpass. I waited for the bus to Buderim Mountain State School every morning so I know the area around Aussie World very well, and I lived at the pub so I certainly know the issues. I have certainly seen the growth in the area and the congestion that has happened. I know my honourable colleague the member for Caloundra, who represents the Caloundra electorate, will talk about that as well. He has seen the growth in that particular area. With that growth comes more pressures on our road infrastructure.

I understand the department's perspective and the government's perspective. When you are in government—and this applies to all types of government—you try to have local traffic off the highway and hence the western service road is being developed. I do know the area well. In the old days when I was a young fellow, I would wait under the bridge for the bus to Buderim Mountain State School, and that was not that long ago. In that short period that has come since, we now have a lot more traffic on the road. The fact is that the Bruce Highway and that area around there is not coping at the moment.

When the Palmview development was planned as a greenfield site originally and announced by former premier Bligh, there was major contention within the Sippy Downs community. Unfortunately, it was a community that was built with one way in and one way out, and what came with that was additional traffic congestion. When the council put out the master plan for the Palmview development, they were going to divide the Sippy Downs community with this big greenlink. The Sunshine Coast council at the time believed that everyone was going to put their cars away and jump on a pushbike and travel around the Sunshine Coast, which was not going to happen. We fought in government to get rid of that greenlink and I acknowledge the work of the member for Callide, who is in the chamber tonight and was deputy premier at the time. He may not recall this, but he wrote to the mayor of the Sunshine Coast at the time saying that the state development department would not approve that master plan with that big greenlink going straight through the Sippy Downs community. That did not proceed, which is good. The phasing of the Palmview development with the assistance of the Sippy Downs & District Community Association took place, and we have ended up with a situation where everyone in the community is happy.

The billion dollar project, which is the Bruce Highway upgrade, will be invaluable for the Sunshine Coast community and commuters. The particular revocation of the access road is something that I fought for very strongly in terms of having access from Palmview development on to the Bruce Highway. We wanted to save the residents of the Sippy Downs community the frustration of additional congestion with the 14,000 additional residents going through their already congested roads in Sippy Downs. We fought for that with those three community groups, as I said, and we were successful in the plan released at the end of last year by council in having a future road on to Pignata Road from the Palmview development. That was common sense and it was a good solution, but it would not have happened without the fabulous members of the Sunshine Coast community groups and so forth who campaigned, as well as the representation of the Sunshine Coast MPs who acknowledged that this particular revocation might be in my electorate. The Sunshine Coast MPs work very well in the community together. The member for Caloundra, Mr McArdle, and I have attended many rallies and community events with respect to this particular development.

The highway upgrade starts this year—hence, the revocation tonight. I acknowledge the former federal member for Fisher, Mal Brough, and the work he did in getting the \$800 million from the federal government to have this upgrade put in place. I also acknowledge my federal colleagues Andrew Wallace MP and Ted O'Brien MP, who continued to fight for that \$800 million. When it was announced last year, it was fantastic for the Sunshine Coast community. Again, I thank the Sippy Downs & District Community Association, the Save Exit 190 Group and the Bruce Highway Action Group. We have managed to get a situation where we have a billion dollar upgrade to our roads and infrastructure around this particular development and everyone in the community now seems content. There might be some issues we have to iron out, but it seems like we have managed to get to a situation where everyone is happy, and that is great.

The other issue is when you exit Pignata Road back on to the highway. We were successful recently in having a commitment from the department of main roads in relation to the current residents in the Palmview area around Pignata Road, particularly the strawberry fields opposite the Aussie World precinct. They can exit straight on to the highway at the moment in a southbound direction. Under the new plan, that was going to be closed off but we have recently had success because Main Roads have confirmed to us that they will leave that road open for emergency issues in the future. Therefore, they will use the underpass at Aussie World and go over the western service road, but if there is a fire or other type of emergency—for example, flooding, as it does back on to the Mooloolah River—they will be able to access an emergency exit straight on to the highway. That is what we should be doing because we should not have communities where there is one way in and one way out. They should not be approved on that basis.

I support the revocation. This has been years in the making. Community groups have fought for this road and access, particularly from the Palmview development. We are very pleased that the final council plan with respect to the Palmview development actually has the future road from the Palmview development into Pignata Road which will link people. This will be better for commuters, better for our local residents and safer.