




Speech By
Hon. Mark Furner

MEMBER FOR FERNY GROVE

Record of Proceedings, 23 May 2017

MOTION: CEDAR WOODS DEVELOPMENT

 **Hon. M FURNER** (Ferry Grove—ALP) (Minister for Local Government and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (6.15 pm): I never thought I would see the day or that I would mutter these words: Senator George Brandis is correct. He is right. This mob opposite is only very, very, mediocre and, may I say, hypocritical—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock.

Mr Bleijie: You miss the Senate, don't you?

Mr SPEAKER: I might invite the minister to start again so I can hear and Hansard can hear. Start again, please.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members, if you carry on like that, I have indicated in the past what my approach will be. Minister, can you start again so Hansard can hear.

Mr FURNER: Thank you, Mr Speaker, for your protection. I never thought I would see the day that I would say these words, but Senator George Brandis is correct. I hate to disappoint the member for Kawana by not reflecting on my time in the Senate. George Brandis was right when he said the LNP opposition are very, very mediocre. Not only are they very, very mediocre; they are hypocritical in opposition for moving tonight's motion as well.

From the outset the opposition's Brisbane City Council mates have sought to deceive the residents of my electorate over the size and scale of Cedar Woods. The stench of hypocrisy emanating from the Brisbane City Council on Cedar Woods is astounding. It is on the nose and it has infected those opposite, as seen in tonight's motion.

What concerns me deeply is that the Brisbane City Council never, ever had a plan to consult with my community about their secret plans for this massive overdevelopment of Cedar Woods with 1,300 homes. Now the Brisbane City Council want to scaremonger. They want to engage in inaccurate, scurrilous gutter politics by claiming that they are approving 1,500 homes. It is not true. It is part of Councillor Steve Toomey's and Councillor Julian Simmonds' cynical attempt to airbrush their deception from our region's history.

Let us not forget the reason for this development. It was called in in the first place because we considered that it was inappropriate and too much for the area. It was called in by the Palaszczuk government because residents told me and the member for Ashgrove that they wanted their voices heard in their community. They wanted a better result for their community. The Brisbane City Council was not giving them a say in the future of this unique and sensitive area bordering on the D'Aguilar National Park. I am sure members have been up around that range before and seen the beauty of Bellbird Grove in particular. The native fauna in that area is absolutely outstanding. They are the sorts of areas that need to be protected.

The LNP-led council was and still is more interested in looking after the interests of their developer mates than those of local residents. The LNP-led council had no interest in protecting koalas or having a buffer to protect the national park from bushfire risk. They were beholden to developers who wanted squeeze as much concrete and terracotta roofs into Cedar Woods as they could.

Residents do not want their neighbourhood pillaged. They do not want to find out when it is too late that water infrastructure cannot cope. Certainly they do not want traffic congestion, which is inevitable with a development of the size that the Brisbane City Council wants to sneak through in the dead of night. Councillor Toomey knows that, but he does not care. The Brisbane City Council can do better and it really should do better.

I have listened to the community, as have the member for Ashgrove, Kate Jones, and the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning, Jackie Trad. As the Deputy Premier has already indicated, it was the LNP Newman government that changed the rules for Cedar Woods to take away the residents' right to have their say. Labor has given back that right. Last week I met with the Deputy Premier, the member for Ashgrove and Ross McColm from the community consultation team to discuss the neighbourhood plan. The community consultation team, of which Ross McColm is a member, was formed as a result of the Palaszczuk government's call-in of the Cedar Woods plans. At the meeting, Mr McColm and the other committee members reflected that they would never have had the opportunity to meet with the deputy premier about a matter of such vital importance when the LNP was in office. That is a fair statement to make.

The LNP does not listen. Only Labor listens to the concerns of the community and it is Labor that has insisted on meaningful consultation on Cedar Woods. That same consultation will occur for the sensible transit orientated development at the Ferny Grove Railway Station. That project will deliver hundreds of jobs and an additional 253 parking spots for train commuters. The project will come before the Brisbane City Council for development approval and community consultation, as it should. I call on those opposite and Brisbane city councillors to get behind these proposals. I for one will be standing shoulder to shoulder with my constituents of Cedar Woods, because I trust their judgement every day of the week against that of the LNP and its members opposite.

(Time expired)