




Speech By
Andrew Powell

MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE

Record of Proceedings, 13 November 2018

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (OXLEY AND YERONGA PDAS) AMENDMENT
REGULATION**

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (5.27 pm): I move—

That the following provisions, and parts of provisions, of the Economic Development (Oxley and Yeronga PDAs) Amendment Regulation 2018, subordinate legislation No. 115 of 2018, tabled in the House on 21 August 2018, as described below be disallowed—

- (a) Section 1, Short title, the words ‘*Oxley and*’ only
- (b) Section 3, the words
‘Map No. PDA 13—Oxley Priority Development Area Oxley’
- (c) Section 4, the words
‘Oxley Priority Development Area interim land use plan Oxley’

Over more than nine years, I have had the great honour of representing the communities of the Glass House electorate. At four elections now, they have bestowed on me the enormous privilege of representing and fighting for their interests in this House. Above any political or personal motivators, the first and foremost reason that each and every one of us is here is to represent the people of our electorates. The trust that our communities confer on all of us is immense. From the first words in our maiden speeches—just as I said in mine on 22 April 2009—we acknowledge and recognise our sacrosanct responsibilities to the communities that have trusted us to represent them.

Regretfully, the sole reason we are here today debating this disallowance motion is because a member opposite has forgotten the most fundamental reason she sits in this House. It is not for her party or for her ideology. It is certainly not for her career or her own self-interest. The fundamental reason she has the enormous privilege of being a member of this parliament is because of the trust that 30,000-plus electors of Mount Ommaney have bestowed on her. However, the reason we are debating this disallowance motion for the Oxley PDA is because the local Labor member for Mount Ommaney has sold her own community down the river.

I gave notice that I would move a disallowance motion related to the Economic Development (Oxley and Yeronga PDAs) Amendment Regulation 2018 on 1 November due to the overwhelming request for help from community members whose local MPs had turned their backs on them. The Oxley site is the site of the former Oxley secondary college, which is owned by the state government.

At this point, I note that that school was closed by a Labor government. This morning there was an inference from the Premier, the member for Inala, that it was the LNP that closed schools down. No-one is going to hide from the fact that we closed down five schools, but let us not forget the record of successive Labor governments prior to that where we saw seven schools on average closed each and every year for 20 years. Seven schools a year were closed.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Minister for Education, the member for Glass House is not taking your interjections. I ask you to cease interjecting.

Mr POWELL: Furthermore, in answer to question on notice 1146 asked by the member for Coomera on 6 September this year it has been confirmed that under this Labor government there have been an additional six schools closed. They are: Ryeford State School; Helens Hill State School; Bambaroo State School; Tannymorel State School; Mackenzie River State School; and Yowah State School.

Let me pause in the midst of this debate to make sure that everyone listening throughout Queensland knows that the closure of schools is a regular occurrence under Labor governments. To suggest that it is something exclusive to an LNP government, which closed five schools over the course of less than three years, when their record speaks for itself—seven a year for 20 years—is outrageous.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for McConnel, your interjections are not being taken by the member. I will ask you again to direct your comments through the chair.

Mr POWELL: It hurts, does it not, when the people of Queensland are told the truth rather than the mistruths propagated by those opposite? The Oxley site is the site of the former Oxley secondary college which was closed by a Labor state government in 2000. It is a 19.21 hectare site with substantial native vegetation and green space nestled near the banks of the Brisbane River.

When the Labor government first proposed to sell and develop the site in 2016 community outcry was enormous. In response to the deafening outcry of a community that did not want yet another intensive development in one of their few remaining green spaces, the government, forced by then member for Mount Ommaney, Tarnya Smith, commenced a consultation process. Unsurprisingly, the overwhelming consensus from the community feedback received, as published in Economic Development Queensland's report, was that residents did not want the site to be intensively developed. Let me repeat that: they did not want the site intensively developed.

What happened next is a damning indictment on the way this Palaszczuk Labor government operates. As Oxley resident Brian Fuller stated to the *South-West Satellite* in this article, which I table, what happened next was, 'The government went quiet for a year and when they had Jess Pugh elected as an LNP member they come back with a plan that ignores the opinion of the people of Oxley.'

Tabled paper: Article from the *Courier-Mail* online, dated 4 November 2018, titled 'Shadow Minister calls Oxley PDA consultation a "sham"' [1873](#).

Ms PUGH: I rise to a point of order, Mr Speaker. LNP member—

Mr POWELL: That was a direct quote. Let me repeat it: 'The government went quiet for a year and when they had Jess Pugh elected as an ALP member they came back—

Ms PUGH: I rise to a point of order, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: There is a point of order. Can I ask you to resume your seat, member for Glass House?

Ms PUGH: I am personally offended to be referred to as an LNP member, if that is what I just heard. Can you please clarify?

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Mount Ommaney, do you find the comments personally offensive?

Ms PUGH: And inaccurate. I was just referred to as an LNP member.

Mr SPEAKER: No, it is not appropriate to debate the issue.

Ms PUGH: Yes, I find them offensive and I ask him to withdraw.

Mr POWELL: Mr Speaker, can I assist here? In error I inadvertently referred to the member as an LNP member. Trust me, we would not have her. Let me again reflect on—

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The member has found something you have said personally offensive. Can you please withdraw?

Mr POWELL: I withdraw. The quote was—

The Government went quiet for a year and when they had Jess Pugh elected as an ALP member they come back with a plan that ignores the opinion of the people of Oxley.

Just this morning we had the Premier lecturing this House on consultation while her own Labor member for Mount Ommaney, until very recently, has been refusing to meet with extremely concerned stakeholders about this proposed development. Disgracefully, it has taken media attention for the member for Mount Ommaney—

Ms PUGH: I rise to a point of order, Mr Speaker. The member is misleading the House. I have not refused to meet with—

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Mount Ommaney, if you have a concern about a member potentially misleading the House I ask you to write to me. It is not appropriate to rise to a point of order to request that. If you have something else to raise while you are on your feet I am happy to hear it.

Ms PUGH: No, that is fine.

Mr POWELL: Disgracefully, it has taken media attention for the member for Mount Ommaney to even re-engage with the many concerned residents in her own electorate. Instead of standing up for the people who have entrusted her with the great honour of representing them, she has literally sold them out to pathetically toe the Labor Party line.

This is the same Labor Party line that is forcing 176,800 new homes into existing Brisbane suburbs while reducing infrastructure investment. This is the same Labor Party line that is investing less in infrastructure and essential services while forcing local suburbs to accommodate more people with less support. This is the same Labor Party line that has set a record infill target of 94 per cent, with existing communities paying the price. This is the same Labor Party line that has resulted in an ANZ/Property Council report ranking the Palaszczuk Labor government as the worst state government in Australia for planning and managing growth. This is the same Labor Party line that ratcheted infill development to a record 94 per cent yet cut \$9 billion from infrastructure investment. This is the same Labor Party line that is forcing Queenslanders into a daily battle with congestion filled roads and forcing them to wait longer for community services and enjoy fewer green spaces and less affordable housing.

While the member for Mount Ommaney may refuse to meet with members of the Oxley community, I took the time to meet with Brian this morning to listen to more of his concerns. With Brian was Bill Thirkill, the president of the Oxley Progress Association, and Ian Eugard, another concerned local resident. What they told me both shocked and horrified me. They said that they had seen their local member, the member for Mount Ommaney, openly state in the *South-West Satellite*—

I have not had one person mention to me they were unhappy with the decision to include aged care in the development.

They said that was completely untrue. There was not even a shred of credibility to this wildly outlandish statement made by their local member they said. They even provided me with written evidence that what their local member, the member for Mount Ommaney, had said to a journalist is far from true. I table a copy of a consultation document that was directly handed to the member for Mount Ommaney on a Saturday in June 2018 that clearly has written on it 'No retirement homes please'.

Tabled paper. Document, undated, titled 'Former Oxley Secondary College Site' [1874](#).

From one member of parliament to another, the member for Mount Ommaney would do a lot better if she actually listened to the community she represents instead of selling them down the river. I think the least that she could provide to the Oxley community is an apology for the misleading statements she has already made in local media. Even better, she could start to stand up for them. If she needs some advice on how to do that, she need look no further than the former member for Mount Ommaney, Tarnya Smith, who during the previous Palaszczuk government when learning of the decision by the Palaszczuk Labor government to sell off this property, informed her community of what was going on. In a letter, which again I am happy to table, she says—

I appreciate the time many local residents from across our community have taken to fill out my community survey and share your concerns and views on the future use of the site.

Due to this action, and the media coverage from local media, we pressured the Labor Government into holding community forums regarding the future of the Oxley State High School site.

Unfortunately, in the days following the forums, many local residents have contacted me feeling underwhelmed by the 'Consultation' process and manner in which it was undertaken by ... (EDQ). The concerns raised included the format of the EDQ forums, the way the consultation was conducted and the concern with leading questions in the EDQ survey.

At that time the former member had received 143 responses, with an overwhelming 82 per cent of local residents being opposed to any residential development on the site. I table that letter.

Tabled paper. Letter, undated, from the then member for Mount Ommaney, Mrs Tarnya Smith MP, to Mr B Fuller regarding the former Oxley State High School site [1875](#).

That was followed on 23 June 2017 by another letter from the then member for Mount Ommaney, Tarnya Smith, who concluded—

To your questions regarding our plans for the site—

that is, the LNP's plans for the site—

provided the site has not been sold or repurposed, I will be guided by the advice received during my consultation where I received over 1,000 comments, suggestions and draft plans ... from local residents.

Tabled paper. Letter, dated 23 June 2017, from the then member for Mount Ommaney, Mrs Tarnya Smith MP, to Mr B Fuller regarding the former Oxley State High School site [1876](#).

If the current member for Mount Ommaney wants to know how to stand up for her community, she need look no further than those tabled documents from her predecessor. There was a member for Mount Ommaney who stood up for her community and who realised the concerns of her community when it came to the Oxley PDA and was willing to stand up to this Labor government to ensure that what is being proposed did not happen.

What is being proposed? It is a complete disgrace. It is a complete disgrace that the current member for Mount Ommaney is still insisting that the Oxley community's preference is for an intensive six-storey development on the old secondary school site. It is outrageous that Labor continue to ignore local planning concerns and ram through regulations that only serve to further their own self-interest. The Palaszczuk government owns this site and its consultation process was a sham—the outcome a foregone conclusion. Labor's push for development on urban infill sites is changing Brisbane for the worse. The Palaszczuk Labor government's horrendous planning policy is in desperate need of fixing, and fixing it can start today by stopping Labor's plans for the Oxley PDA.

I call on the community to help. Go to www.oxleypda.com.au, sign the petition and give this government yet another clear message that what is being proposed is not what the community wants. If the member for Mount Ommaney refuses to take a stand to fight for the community that elected her, I, along with my LNP colleagues, will. Only the LNP has a plan for growth. An LNP government will stop Labor's overdevelopment agenda. We need to protect our suburban streets and ensure our children have parks to play in. The LNP will make housing more affordable by opening up greenfield development sites with new infrastructure like the second M1. Unlike Labor, the LNP listens to locals. We will actually undertake meaningful consultation through the planning development process and we will stand up for our communities.