




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

Record of Proceedings, 13 November 2018

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

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (6.40 pm), in reply: I rise to oppose the motion moved by the LNP. In my time in this House, I have heard some pretty lowbrow arguments from the LNP, but tonight the LNP has set an even lower standard. That is saying something.

I will start with some facts. The LNP is entitled to its own opinion, but it is not entitled to its own facts. Earlier in the debate the shadow minister, the member for Glass House, talked at length about how the community was so deeply concerned about the Oxley PDA. He talked about a community website that had been established so that the community's voice could be heard. He said that the community website would be a place where the community's voice could be heard. That website, where the member for Glass House is encouraging people to go to click an online petition, is called oxleypda.com.au. A quick search of whois.net, which is a search of internet domains, shows that the technical contact name for oxleypda.com.au is Andrew Powell. Furthermore, the registrant is the Legislative Assembly of Queensland. I wonder how many 'Andrew Powells care of the Legislative Assembly of Queensland' there are in the world? Of course, this domain name is another front for the LNP. I table that search of domain names.

Tabled paper. Web page, dated 13 November 2018, WHOis.net, domain name search result [1879](#).

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Leader of the Opposition, if you wish to interject, please be in your allocated seat. Members, I ask you to ensure that your interjections are kept lower. I have difficulty hearing the minister.

Mr Bennett interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Burnett, you are warned under the standing orders.

Mr DICK: All the LNP members ever do is stand up for themselves. Tonight, we heard a strong, passionate and eloquent contribution from the member for Mount Ommaney, who stands up for her community. This is not some sham or fake website put forward as the voice of the community of Mount Ommaney; it is just the voice of the member for Glass House. I will say a little bit more about the member for Glass House later.

I turn to some facts about the priority development area. On 10 August this year, on my recommendation, the executive council approved the Economic Development (Oxley and Yeronga PDAs) Amendment Regulation. It appears that the Yeronga PDA is okay with the LNP, but not the Oxley one. That shows the political approach the LNP is taking to community development. The amendment regulation declared the Oxley and Yeronga priority development areas and their interim land use plans.

The amendment regulation to declare the Oxley PDA provides the planning framework for the much needed revitalisation of the Oxley secondary college site. This college closed in 2000 and was declared surplus to the requirements of the former department of education and training in 2001. The

site was subsequently purchased by the former department of natural resources and mines in 2001 and declared surplus to its requirements in 2014, remaining in government hands. Prior to commencing community engagement in 2016, Economic Development Queensland reconfirmed that the site was not required for schools.

This is a good opportunity to talk about the LNP's policy on schools. Tonight we have heard a lot about schools—about how the LNP was the champion of schools. The LNP's policy on schools is this: keep open those schools that do not have students, that have not had students for years, but close those schools that have students. How do we know that? The prime example is a school in the electorate of the deputy leader of the LNP, Everton Park State High School. As soon as the member was elected in 2012, he could not wait to close that school. He took his riding instructions from the greatest school closer in history, Campbell Newman, and said to his own electorate about this school, that had students and had been educating students for years, 'We don't need this facility in my community. We'll close it down.' Thanks to the magnificent work of the magnificent seven who were then in opposition, who stood up for schools and stood up for state education, the member for Everton was forced into a humiliating backdown in his own community and had to keep that school open.

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr DICK: I take that interjection from the member for Yeerongpilly and the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. The former LNP government closed Nyanda State High School in the electorate that the minister came to represent, which is a Labor electorate. The former LNP government was happy to close state schools in Labor electorates, but it had to make a humiliating backdown in relation to a school in its own electorate.

Since the school has closed, the Oxley secondary school site has had a number of temporary government uses. I thank those public servants who worked hard on the fire ant eradication program, which was based at that college. There has never been a definitive decision about the future of this site. As the member for Bancroft indicated in his contribution, its continued vacancy poses a risk of fire, vandalism and other unlawful activity. In its current form, the site represents a risk to the community. That is the truth. We need to find a way forward on this issue. In January 2018 a fire created an asbestos risk that threatened surrounding residents. The remaining buildings on the site are largely dilapidated and unsuitable for re-use.

We heard from LNP members in their contributions the endless complaint about consultation. I will go through some facts about what happened on this site in consultation with the community. Since 2016, my department's lead agency in property development, EDQ, has been investigating the future use of this site and engaging with the local community to ensure that the site can again become a functional and vibrant place for the Oxley community and secure the best return for the Queensland taxpayer. In 2016, EDQ started consultation with the community—before the PDA was, in fact, declared—because EDQ was genuine in its engagement with the community, as the member for Mount Ommaney has been genuine in her engagement with the community.

This engagement included three newsletters to more than 9,500 homes and business, multiple newspaper and school newsletter advertisements, two surveys, four information sessions, a meeting with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representatives, and a meeting with community organisations. Since her election the member for Mount Ommaney has been deeply engaged with this project all the way through to shape the future of this important part of her electorate.

Given the high level of local interest, an independent community panel was established to help design and run a community knowledge session. Along with the member for Mount Ommaney, I want to thank that panel for its contribution. I want to thank the chair, Theresa Rich Hoyle, for her leadership of that group—not the member for Mount Ommaney, not me as the minister for economic development, but a community leader leading her community through this development process and talking to her community about how this site should be used. The panel held a public session on 14 July 2016 and then met with EDQ officers on 18 July 2016 to present the findings of its engagement.

The first step was to get an understanding of local issues and what the community would like to see reflected in any plan. Six key themes emerged from the initial engagement with the Oxley community. There was the protection of bushland and open space and the provision of community facilities, including a community centre, community garden and moving the childcare centre out of a flood area. Only the LNP would oppose moving a kindergarten out of an area that is prone to flooding. That is exactly what this motion would do. It would stop this development and stop a C&K kindy moving out of an area that is prone to flooding. Further themes emerging from the initial engagement with the Oxley community were understanding the impact of flooding and landslip; traffic and car parking issues; no high-density resident development—there was some support for lower density housing and special housing for seniors; and the development to be complementary to the suburb's character.

Following this engagement, EDQ undertook some initial investigations, particularly around landslip, and worked up a draft concept plan which was presented at two information sessions on 31 May and 2 June 2018. It was a very detailed process to work through all of the issues about the use of this land. The member for Mount Ommaney—who was a great advocate for this project and I want to thank her again—attended all of those information sessions and worked closely with her community.

Of course, the Oxley PDA Interim Land Use Plan, which establishes a vision for the PDA, responds to that consultation process to ensure the development: firstly, respects the existing urban and natural environment; secondly, protects significant vegetation and preserves wildlife habitat; thirdly, delivers protection from flood and landslip risk; fourthly, delivers sustainable communities with a strong identity and access to facilities that meet the needs of the local community both now and in the future; fifthly, manages traffic impacts by limiting through traffic and improving street connections; and, sixthly, promotes high-quality urban design and open space including best practice tropical design.

This vision for the Oxley PDA has been a community effort. It recognises the need to balance economic development and development for community purposes in accordance with the Economic Development Act. As the chair of the community panel, Theresa Rich Hoyle said—

The community consultation made a dramatic difference in the final outcome. I believe the compromises that have been achieved are nothing short of phenomenal.

In my view this would not have been achieved without the thousands of hours—

Let me repeat that—

the thousands of hours our community pulled together and worked with EDQ.

That is what you get when you take community seriously, which is what Labor governments do and what the LNP has not done by tabling this motion. I again repeat the words of Theresa Rich Hoyle in her Facebook post that the member for Mount Ommaney put on the record tonight. This follows this sham campaign, and let us face it, it is a sham campaign started by the member for Glass House with a website purchased and put up on the internet by the member for Glass House. The chair of the community consultation panel said—

This makes me super cranky. For the shadow minister 2½ years later to chime in and say that the community consultation was a sham and that the development was a foregone conclusion. Whilst the plans thus far are not the 100% per cent idealistic outcome the community sought, the community consultation made a dramatic difference in the final outcome. I believe the compromises that have been achieved are nothing short of phenomenal ...

I want to thank Theresa again for her contribution. So outrageous is this proposal that it is delivered under legislation Jeff Seeney put into this parliament. That is how bad the Economic Development Act is, according to the opposition. They were not complaining about the Townsville Waterfront PDA that the LNP government declared, or the Southport PDA, or the Parklands PDA, or the Toondah Harbour PDA, or the Weinam Creek PDA, or the Maroochy PDA or the Toowoomba Railway PDA. There were no complaints from them about those. For political purposes and the sham community campaign the LNP started they now want to complain.

Can I say a little bit about consultation, picking up some of the comments made by members of the government? Imagine the government being lectured to by the LNP on consultation. What about the reassurance from the leader of the LNP the public consultation that he took forward to the community before the 2012 election, that no public servant had anything to fear from an LNP government? Do members remember that consultation? There were 14,000 people sacked; 14,000 workers lost their jobs.

Did Jeff Seeney consult with the Sunshine Coast Council when he used his ministerial powers to re-zone a privately owned caravan park to benefit an LNP mate? Was there consultation there? None. Did the LNP minister for health consult with the patients and families of the Barrett Adolescent Centre when it was closed without a replacement against expert advice? There was no consultation there. What about the gag clauses those opposite put in for community organisations that were funded by government? There was no consultation when they did that. Every step of the way they disrespected the community and their views because that is what the LNP does.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Apologies for interrupting, Minister. Pause the clock. Members to my left, the minister is not taking your interjections, and I note that a number of members have failed to heed my advice earlier today with regard to personalising interjections with the word 'you'. Those interjections will cease.

Mr DICK: As we have heard from the member for Mount Ommaney, the motion moved by the LNP has galvanised her community through the consultation group and others against this foolishness that the LNP wants to put forth in the House tonight. Instead we are delivering an authentic and constructive approach of consultation and delivery for a better outcome for this part of Mount Ommaney.

I am not sure, but this might be the biggest own goal by the shadow minister since the Leader of the Opposition came into this House and moved a motion written by the member for Maiwar. Remember when she did that last session? She came in here and sought leave to move a motion written by the Greens member for Maiwar. That is her type of leadership. It should come as no surprise. Do members remember when the shadow minister stood in Toowoomba and argued that the government was pork-barrelling to lure Qantas to locate its first pilot training facility to Mackay? What happened? The Premier and I stood up with the CEO of Qantas and announced it would be in Toowoomba. We are still working with the member for Mackay to deliver another one for Mackay.

The shadow minister and member for Glass House put out a media release bemoaning delays in the delivery of the Mackay showgrounds redevelopment. He said it was terrible. I visited Mackay the previous week and opened the showgrounds! This is the sort of high-quality political and policy analysis we get from the member for Glass House, who should stick to writing and securing domain names to put forward sham consultation processes. When the member for Glass House was the environment minister he axed the waste levy and made Queensland the rubbish dumping ground of Australia. We need to see more of the member for Glass House in marginal Labor electorates. Our vote is going up because of what he is doing.

In conclusion, I thank the officers of Economic Development Queensland who do fantastic work each and every day shaping better community outcomes across Queensland. They work so hard. Their work has been recognised through some of the most significant awards that developers can receive. I thank them because they engage with the community and work extremely hard for the community. I also again thank the member for Mount Ommaney for her commitment and passion for her community. Many of us had to be put through the experience of the previous member for Mount Ommaney. It was no surprise that after consistent campaigning in two elections the member for Mount Ommaney was elected to this House. She is someone who comes from her community, who is connected to her community and stands up for her community. Long may that be the case.

The community of Mount Ommaney will see through this sham website, this sham argument and this sham case the LNP has put forward in this matter. This motion is nothing more than political grandstanding by an LNP still sore about losing Mount Ommaney to the new member for Mount Ommaney, a person whom we want to see in this House for many years to come. I say to the member for Glass House that you have seriously underestimated the capacity and the ability of the member for Mount Ommaney.