




Speech By
Jennifer Howard

MEMBER FOR IPSWICH

Record of Proceedings, 21 March 2018

MOTION: NEW CHUM, WASTE FACILITY

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (6.17 pm): Listening to that contribution really made me think about the Newman era. Just when we thought we were safe it does not seem that we are at all. I rise to speak against the motion put by the opposition leader today and speak in favour of the sensible amendment by the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning which notes that Ipswich City Council is the assessment agency for the BMI Group's application for a waste facility at New Chum, notes that Ipswich City Council has not requested the state to exercise its call-in powers at all, notes that Ipswich City Council has the power to approve or reject applications to expand existing or establish new waste facilities and notes the final report of Justice Peter Lyons's investigation into the transport of waste into Queensland.

This proposed call-in can only be described as cheap political pointscoreing. It offers no solution to the problems of waste management in Ipswich or in Queensland. Call-in powers are not a political plaything. Call-in powers should be used based on the best planning advice, not as a political response to sensible government policy.

When the Leader of the Opposition referred to BMI's application in the media last week she said that the government needs to listen to the community and that the residents have said very clearly that they do not want this. While some residents in Ipswich have told me that they oppose BMI's dump at New Chum, many residents have also told me that they support the introduction of a sensible waste management policy in Queensland to stop trucks coming over the border from New South Wales to dump their rubbish in Ipswich. Ipswich residents have told me that they want a long-term solution in place to stop Ipswich being the cheap dumping ground for interstate corporate polluters who try to dodge the New South Wales waste levy. It is time we removed the incentive for truck drivers from Sydney to profit from dumping their waste in Queensland. Ipswich residents should not be subsidising corporate polluters to dump waste in our landfills and increase the traffic on our roads.

Calling in every second project is not an appropriate way to run a state planning system. The Leader of the Opposition's motion requesting the Palaszczuk government to call in the proposed dump at New Chum is simply a case of putting short-term policies before good policy.

It is important to always remember that local planning is first and foremost within the purview of local government. What is more, the Leader of the Opposition's concerns about the dumps in Ipswich and her request to call in BMI's dump application are simply disingenuous if she also opposes introducing good waste management policy for Queensland.

Ipswich would not have had a problem with the growth of interstate dumping in the first place if Campbell Newman's LNP government had not removed the waste levy in 2012 and we would not be in the situation we now find ourselves, where the opposition leader thinks it is a good idea to call in every development application and ask the state to interfere in local government planning processes. The Ipswich City Council will assess the BMI project on its merits and in a way that protects locals from heavy vehicles, noise and smell.

Generally, call-ins are done sparingly, with only one or two a year undertaken across the state in recent times. Under the Planning Act, the minister has the power to call in and assess and decide or reassess and re-decide an application if the matter involves or is likely to involve a state interest and warrants ministerial involvement. A state interest is an interest that the minister considers affects an economic or environmental interest of the state or part of the state, or the interest of ensuring that the Planning Act's purpose is achieved, including the establishment of an efficient, effective, transparent, integrated, coordinated and accountable system of development assessment.

This government does not make reckless decisions related to planning. Proper planning processes, as set out in the Planning Act 2016, must be fully enacted to ensure that well-considered decisions are made. Planning in Queensland puts infrastructure and well-organised communities together. Without an efficient planning system in place in Queensland, our future is compromised. Calling in individual projects without a statewide strategy should not be the course of action pursued. We cannot fix our waste management issues by calling in every application and overriding council.

During the last term of parliament, the then planning minister and Deputy Premier introduced new planning legislation for Queensland. The new Planning Act is a bipartisan piece of legislation. We also implemented ShapingSEQ, the South-East Queensland Regional Plan, which is a partnership between the state government and local councils to plan for the expected growth in the south-east. I oppose the original motion and I support the amended motion.

(Time expired)