




Speech By
Jessica Pugh

MEMBER FOR MOUNT OMMANEY

Record of Proceedings, 13 November 2018

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

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (5.43 pm): I barely know where to start, but I rise this evening to condemn this motion and to stand up for my beloved community of Oxley. The member's new-found interest in the Oxley PDA is nothing more than political muckraking. When my committee recently held public hearings into PDAs, *Hansard* will show that not only did the member for Glass House not attend to find out more but the only member who asked any questions about the Oxley PDA was me. That is right: the LNP did not ask a single question about PDAs. I, however, asked a number of questions, as *Hansard* reflects, because that is what effective local members do. They ask questions, they research and they talk to their community. They do not dash off half-cocked press releases without speaking to a single member of the Oxley community panel. I am deeply offended on behalf of my community and particularly the community panel members who have had their hard work not just dismissed by the shadow minister but denigrated. They have been called political hacks. Their hard work during the two-year consultation process has been called a sham by the shadow minister.

Mr Powell interjected.

Ms PUGH: Your interjections are not being taken.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Mount Ommaney, you will put your comments through the chair.

Ms PUGH: What concerns me more though is that the shadow minister is so ready and so willing to throw mud at Oxley residents simply because they have the temerity to stand up and represent their community because they care so passionately. When I ran for parliament I knew what I was getting into. For better or for worse, parliament has a reputation as a combative place. These community members did not sign up for that, and I will not stand by and let the member for Glass House smear their efforts in the local paper. They cannot come into this place and defend themselves, but I can.

These community panel members worked tirelessly and over a number of years to get the best possible outcome and provide EDQ and the community with the best possible research on tricky subjects like subsidence on the site and the historical value of the site. They were able to show that the bushland on the site is over 100 years old—native virgin bushland. The panel members all had different areas of expertise. We had contributors who were local residents, members of the C&K—that is the beloved Yuingi currently located on the site. I have thanked them before, as I have spoken many times on the Oxley PDA already this year, but today I want to mention them by name.

The Oxley community panel is comprised of Colin Hall, Shealagh Walker, Paul Garnsey, Meg Jones, Ed Parker, Theresa Rich Hoyle, Gavin Seipelt and Wai Giffen. I cannot imagine how they must have felt waking up to read the front page of the local paper where it was claimed that the two-year community consultation that they worked so hard on and was painstakingly conducted and hard fought for by our local community was a sham by a member of parliament who had not attended a single

community consultation session. If the member had, he would be aware that it was the furthest thing from a sham. It was the blood, sweat and tears of hardworking community members fighting to get the best result for our beautiful community.

Interestingly, the petition page—and I have had a look at it—that was started to turn this PDA over uses the exact same word: 'sham'. It also features that beautiful LNP sky blue in its design. I think if members had a look at the page they would agree that it looks very much like a political flyer, but it is missing an authorisation. I am not saying that the member started this petition page, but if the colour scheme and the words are the same it must be one heck of a coincidence! A very clever media adviser must have worked hard on this.

Mr Powell interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Glass House, you were listened to in relative silence whilst being somewhat combative. I ask that you show the same courtesy to the member for Mount Ommaney. She is not taking interjections.

Ms PUGH: Thankfully Theresa Rich Hoyle did not need a media adviser to tell us how she felt on the Oxley secondary school Facebook page last week. I will read her response now, which I will table. She states—

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% 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 especially in light of when I think back to the first meetings where filling in the oval to make it above flood level, small lot affordable housing and engineering the landslip slopes were all discussed as "on the table".

We now have a huge chunk of bush land preserved and to be utilised, appreciated and enjoyed by the community, sporting grounds, recreational space, rejuvenation and protection of the landslip zones, fairly minimal low density residential development, an aged care facility that will provide ongoing jobs, flood free relocation of Yuingi childcare and a brand spanking new community centre.

In my view this would not have been achieved without the THOUSANDS of hours our community pulled together and worked WITH EDQ to achieve.

... this is a pretty cheeky comment and a bit of a pot calling kettle black response. I'd love to hear a promise from the Liberal Government on what they'd achieve with the site because they sure weren't willing to promise anything at election time either.

Mr Mander: We wouldn't have sold it. We wouldn't have closed down a school.

Ms PUGH: Well, you had the opportunity to put that on the record. The quote continues—

No outcome was ever going to make everyone happy and I certainly would have loved several other options however the compromises achieved meet many requirements from the wider community and likewise the governments agenda to develop the land according to state law requirements.

Rant over.

Tabled paper: Extract, dated 8 November 2018, from social media post, titled 'Oxley PDA "sham"—South-West News' [1877](#).

Members can see that the community is absolutely unhappy with being verballed by the Johnny-come-lately member for Glass House.

I will provide a little bit of history. The future of this site has been up in the air since 2014 when, spoiler alert, Campbell Newman as premier vacated the site, evicting its tenants at the time, including a local ballet school where the now Premier, Anastacia Palaszczuk, once learned ballet as well as the fire ants workforce. They were booted off by Campbell Newman without a word of complaint from the former LNP member for Mount Ommaney—no doubt in preparation for asset sales. Then in 2015 Newman lost and all of a sudden the former member for Mount Ommaney could not say enough about the site. She mentioned it three times in parliament in her next term, although she did have a few facts confused, claiming the site was only 22 acres when it is in fact 19 hectares.

In the meantime, the Palaszczuk government simply got on with the job of consulting the community, with EDQ conducting many community consultation meetings, with letterbox drops, Facebook posts and of course that vital correspondence with the nine-member Oxley community panel. As the candidate and then as the member, I worked with my community to rise above the political baiting that we see today and simply concentrate on getting the best possible outcome for the community.

The final outcome for the site includes a community hub, the relocation of our beloved Yuingi childcare centre to higher ground out of the flood plains, sport and playing fields, and 74 large-lot residential homes on an average block size of 800 square metres—hardly high-density housing. This is in keeping with other beautiful local developments like Edenbrooke in nearby Sinnamon Park. I doubt the member could even point out Sinnamon Park on a map.

The aged-care development proposal for the site is proposed to take just 1.45 hectares of the 19-hectare site. I found that out in a press release—very secretive! It was in an article published by the minister. Apparently, the LNP are very concerned about this six-storey proposal, but they have never said a word about the myriad other high-rise developments throughout Oxley approved by the LNP council.

At the end of my street, Dowding Street in Oxley, there is a council approved development for 170 multiple dwellings at 242 Englefield Road, which was bushland. These are 9.5 metres in height and are three- and four-bedroom small-lot dwellings on a vastly smaller parcel of land. This is a true story, Mr Speaker: I found this development proposal on a walkway through to an unused industrial estate. By contrast, we have kept the community updated every step of the way.

Small-lot housing abounds across Oxley under the LNP council, and that is why I campaigned so passionately for the PDA. I wanted to ensure that the entire site was not overtaken by more of the same townhouses and unit blocks all over this beautiful site. I sent out flyers in addition to those sent by the EDQ to ensure that community members were kept up to date. I have worked with Steve Griffiths and the independent councillor in the Oxley area, Nicole Johnston. I have spoken with them and met with them every single step of the way. I am proud to put on record and match my commitment to this site every step of the way. This motion is a sham, and I stand shoulder to shoulder with my community in condemning it.