




Speech By  
**Julieanne Gilbert**

**MEMBER FOR MACKAY**

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

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (6.20 pm): I rise to speak against the disallowance motion. Tonight we have heard that consultation only counts if it agrees with the ideas of the LNP. Anybody else's ideas are thrown out the window. The member for Mount Ommaney outlined the consultation she undertook. Because it does not line up with the ideas of those opposite it does not count. That is quite shameful.

On 9 August 2018 the Governor in Council authorised the Economic Development (Oxley and Yeronga PDAs) Amendment Regulation 2018. The regulation provides for the declaration of priority development areas over two parcels of land currently owned by the state and surplus to requirements. Economic Development Queensland, EDQ, is the state's specialist land use planning and property development unit within the Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning. EDQ engages with state and local government, the development industry and the community to identify, plan, facilitate and deliver property development and infrastructure projects to create prosperous, livable and connected communities. This is a noble objective and it is one that this disallowance motion seeks to undermine.

The Oxley PDA Interim Land Use Plan is a step towards that aim. As the member for Mount Ommaney has indicated, it is a plan that has already been subjected to considerable community consultation and feedback. She has worked hard with her community. The plan provides for a master planned community to be developed that includes 74 residential lots. The development scheme will also provide for the implementation of a six-storey aged-care facility. These high-rise aged-care facilities are very popular in my area as well. It is important for us as parliamentarians and for our community to recognise that our state has not only a growing population but also an ageing population. Therefore, it is important that our planners and developers make provision for a diverse range of accommodation options for older Queenslanders. As EDQ always seeks to do in its master planned communities, the development will support the government's housing strategy.

I find it confusing that the member for Glass House and his colleagues are opposing this PDA. Perhaps it is because those opposite simply do not get what a priority development area is. I know that in my community of Mackay the Leader of the Opposition was embarrassed by her own media release. On 30 May 2018 she issued a media release titled 'Will Labor's Budget match Mackay's PDA hype?' The media release bemoaned that 'the Mackay PDA will need hundreds of millions of dollars of funding to get off the ground' and said 'if there's no money for the Mackay priority development then it's not a priority at all'. What the Leader of the Opposition clearly did not understand was that the PDA was declared by the state at the request of Mackay Regional Council. The council's own website states that the PDA will support its 'visionary project that will unlock the true value of Queensland's Bluewater Edge and transform the city'. The PDA is a great example of how streamlined planning tools available through the declaration of a PDA can be used by councils to facilitate local priorities. Subsequently, I have received considerable feedback from my community about the PDA. My community is fully engaged.

The Mackay region lived through 10 years of chaotic construction boom due to the coal industry. We experienced out-of-control growth. Housing estates popped up all over the place. Investors threw money at projects to construct apartments and commercial buildings. There was such a rush to create accommodation and commercial buildings that there was no real thought for the needs of the community in terms of lifestyle and facilities. Now we as a community have the opportunity to get involved and think about what we want—how we want to live, work, learn and play. We have the opportunity to put our ideas forward to shape the colour and energy of our city and say how we want to use our spaces and facilities.

Everyone I speak to has called the Mackay Waterfront Priority Development Area a game changer. It will build on Mackay's natural, cultural and heritage assets. There will be opportunities to redevelop the Pioneer River, the only truly blue river in Queensland, and the Binnington Esplanade waterfronts; establish a precinct for innovation and knowledge-based industries; promote the city centre as a key business hub; build on the city's already great livability; establish a must-see waterfront tourist destination; increase investor confidence and development in the region; and build on the region's sustainability.

Throughout all the phases of the Mackay PDA there has been a focus by the Mackay Regional Council on community consultation, just as has happened in the Mount Ommaney community. They have made it easy for everyone to get involved—whether an investor or just a mum-and-dad local. They have also collected ideas and submissions online and have set up stalls at the local show and festivals, with staff from council taking direct comments from the community.

State government and council are working hand in hand. The mayor, Greg Williamson, just last week reported how pleased he was with the way the state government has been so responsive and collaborative in the preparation of the proposed development scheme. The PDA has the backing of the Mackay chamber of commerce. They are keen to see investment opportunities open up for their members. The Mackay branch of UDIA has been very active in the PDA space. Mark McGrath, Paul Thompson and Michael Jewell met with me to discuss their vision. They are keen for one of their members to be on the council's PDA steering committee. As an organisation they see opportunities in all five of the PDA areas. Their members have already started engaging with EDQ. They also held a special briefing for their members on the PDA on 17 July. Listening to experts and listening to the community is what has happened with this PDA, just as it has in Mount Ommaney.

Developer Vic Vassallo has on many occasions expressed his excitement about the many possibilities the PDA will deliver for tourism and high-end residential development. Vic has said that the PDA is a catalyst for tourism and development in Mackay. He has his own great plans for his participation in the PDA.

GW3, the Mackay-Isaac-Whitsunday economic body, is right behind the PDA. It can see the immense benefits it will bring in the planning for attracting new business opportunities in our region. The chair of GW3, Garry Scanlan, agrees that it will be the game changer Mackay needs.

Earlier today in his address-in-reply speech the member for Toowoomba North moaned about Toowoomba Regional Council's PDA, approved in 2014, not doing anything for the city. He should not just moan about it; he should get on board. He should get his community and organisations to work with council. Surely he has contacts within his economic organisations. Bleating about it is not being a leader. He should take on the opportunity, roll up his sleeves and help his council and developers get started.

As the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning has pointed out previously to the House, the Leader of the Opposition took the media release off her website after both the mayor of Mackay, Greg Williamson, and I pointed out on the evening news that the PDA is a planning instrument. The Leader of the Opposition then realised she had led with her chin. It is this sort of laziness in terms of policy detail that also led to the member for Glass House issuing a media release during estimates stating that the finalisation of the Mackay Showgrounds refurbishment had been delayed when in fact the minister had been in Mackay just the week before to officially open the \$2.3 million state funded project. The member for Glass House's media release is one of those that mysteriously disappeared off his website.

What this disallowance motion demonstrates to me is that the opposition do not learn from their own mistakes. They continue to lead with their chin. They think the public will forget their mistakes. We in Mackay have not forgotten their mistakes. Public sector workers have not forgotten that they were told they had nothing to fear. As has been outlined by the member for Mount Ommaney, Economic Development Queensland has worked hard to consider the views of the people of the Oxley community.

*(Time expired)*