




Speech By
Corrine McMillan

MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 22 August 2019

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Mount Gravatt Central Precinct

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (2.41 pm): I am proud to have led the establishment of the Mount Gravatt Central main street committee. Members of this committee include Michael Sunderland from Karalis Real Estate; David Roberts, a local landscape architect—one of my past Cavendish Road students' parents; Mark Williams from Mark Williams Architects; Taaj Kumar; Nick Comino; and many others. This group is specifically focused on advocating for the upgrade and beautification of Mount Gravatt Central—a Brisbane City Council responsibility.

We have reviewed and assessed the Mount Gravatt Central precinct in its context within the broader Mount Gravatt community and have determined areas for improvement to create demand and increase patronage, supporting existing businesses and landlords, and the provision of appropriate services for the surrounding community. Proximity to public transport, thanks to our Labor government, is excellent.

We have a documented vision to generate a strong local economy to support our community. For many years now the Mount Gravatt Central precinct, like our local roads and footpaths—and I table an article from the *Courier-Mail* dated 6 February 2019 where Mount Gravatt East was the top listed suburb of footpaths needing repair in Brisbane—has been ignored by our local councillor, the deputy mayor, with access to parking poor, pavements broken and in disrepair, signage limited, vandalism not removed, plants on the footpaths not cared for, lighting poor, and buildings in disrepair and tired looking.

Tabled paper. Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 6 February 2019, titled 'Brisbane's worst footpaths revealed' [1339](#).

As a consequence, there are many empty shops and office spaces, and my local business community is hurting. This group of business owners and property owners have had enough and have developed an architecturally designed master plan for an outdoor precinct which incorporates the immediate laneways of Mount Gravatt Central—a precinct which will draw on our cultural identity and historical landmarks such as the old tram terminus which closed in 1954.

Unlike the LNP Brisbane City Council, the committee has a vision for our community which will bring significant economic benefits to our local business owners. Our vision is to create an attractive, vibrant shopping strip; strengthen and reinforce the 'sense of place'; boost the number of eateries offering alfresco dining; encourage existing businesses to stay open longer, increasing jobs; promoting the area as a local destination; encourage community events, especially at night, with buskers and other entertainment to draw more locals and tourists to the strip to spend more time and money locally; improve stormwater infrastructure; update tired streetscape furniture; themed lighting applied creatively to enhance ambience; and free wi-fi.

I urge the local councillor, the deputy mayor, to refocus her energies on our immediate community; to engage our local community in discussions; to hear their disappointment; to renovate, revitalise and modernise this precinct to create an area that fosters pride and community confidence.