




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

Record of Proceedings, 20 August 2019

ADJOURNMENT

Toohey Forest

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (7.08 pm): As a former chair of the Toohey forest management committee, I rise to speak on a matter of great importance for southside koalas: the preservation of the environmental jewel that is Toohey Forest. For many decades the state government has owned a small number of lots near University Drive on the doorstep of Griffith University's Nathan campus. This land is not under threat of development by the government and is managed appropriately, given koalas use it for habitat.

On 26 February 2019, Councillor David McLachlan of the city council's cabinet wrote to the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning asking for the land to be sold to the council at a concessional rate. I table that letter for the benefit of the House.

Tabled paper. Letter, dated 26 February 2019, from the Chairman, Environment, Parks and Sustainability Committee, Brisbane City Council, Councillor David McLachlan, to the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning, Hon. Cameron Dick, regarding a parcel of land adjoining Toohey Forest [1291](#).

Nonetheless, the city council, in a petty political stunt, asserted that the land was not safe while owned by the state government. That is according to Deputy Mayor Krista Adams, who wanted it under local government control. I lobbied for the option to lock this land away to local government at a discounted rate to be wrapped into the larger parcel that is Toohey Forest. I table this public comment by Deputy Mayor Krista Adams.

Tabled paper. Extract, undated, of Twitter exchange between Councillor Krista Adams and the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Hon. Mark Bailey, regarding Toohey Forest land [1292](#).

Consequently, on 15 July this year, the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning formally wrote to Lord Mayor Schrinner to extend an offer from the Palaszczuk government to permanently lock away for conservation these undeveloped state owned blocks in Toohey Forest at below market rate and below book value with the Brisbane City Council's bushland levy. I table for the benefit of the House this letter dated 15 July from Minister Dick to our unelected Lord Mayor Schrinner offering a negotiation that would preserve our koala habitat and forest forever and seeking to meet to discuss it.

Tabled paper. Letter, dated 15 July 2019, from the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning, Hon. Cameron Dick, to the Lord Mayor of Brisbane, Councillor Adrian Schrinner, regarding land adjacent to Toohey Forest Park [1293](#).

This was the first chance for the new Lord Mayor—the self-proclaimed green Lord Mayor—to not only talk the talk but walk the walk and negotiate with the state at a discounted rate, as requested by the council, a package including the bushland at Toohey Forest, Carseldine, Oxley and a remnant piece of small park at Woolloongabba.

A short time later, on 19 July, Mayor Schrinner responded refusing the offer going back on his council offer via his own Councillor McLachlan. Council refuses to keep its word to accept it at a discounted rate or even to meet to discuss it to lock away this koala habitat. However, the Brisbane City

Council has spent \$5.2 million from its Bushland Acquisition Levy on land at Carrara Street and Nurran Street, Mount Gravatt East, and there is not one single tree on the land. I table a picture of this barren site for the benefit of members.

Tabled paper: Photograph depicting house and land [1294](#).

The council is not willing to use the fund to secure actual bushland as the fund was intended. The mayor and the deputy mayor have not kept their word and are misusing the bushland levy for non-bushland purposes. I call on the mayor and the deputy mayor to come to their senses, sit down to a meeting with the state government and keep their word to secure bushland at Toohey Forest at a discounted rate for future generations.